

JOHNSON TREE BOARD  
Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 16, 2019

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Johnson Library

Present: Sue Lovering, , Rob Maynard, Brian Vandorn, Jacob Vandorn, Dorcas Jones

Absent: Noel Dodge. Louise von Weise

Sue met with Nate of the town road crew to discuss their concerns. They will remove the previously discussed maple branch from the tree next to the Masonic Temple that's threatening the wires there. The difference between topping the tree and just removing the branch was discussed. The Tree Board's plan for establishing an arboretum in the Town of Johnson was also discussed and Nate offered a few suggestions as to sewer/electrical line appropriate planting locations around the Municipal Building. He is supportive of the project.

We need plans for this arboretum and members have been asked to give some thought to location, types of plantings and other considerations, to be discussed at the November 20 meeting.

It was noted that the 2012 Main Street Project trees were planted by Green Mountain Landscaping.

Sue spoke with the owner of Cabot Greenhouse in Cabot, VT about possibly buying trees from them in the future. The information about this source was very positive.

Rob suggested using landscape cloth under the grates for the trees on Main Street to cut down on the amount of weeds that grow there and hopefully limit the weeding to once per season. We will set up a schedule next spring to pull grates, weed, spread compost, lay fabric, and replace grates. Some of those will have to be cut down to accommodate trees that are outgrowing the grates and cages.

Many weeks of the summer months were spent by members of the tree board regularly weeding, watering, mulching and performing any necessary maintenance.

Our responsibility for the trees in the various town cemeteries was discussed. These would include Lamoille View, Evergreen Ledge, Whiting Hill, Plot, and others.

Sue led a discussion on the Emerald Ash Borer which has now been found closer to Johnson than before. The issue is whether or not the town should be pro-active when it comes to cutting the trees in the town right-of-ways, which would require a new ordinance. Waiting too long may not be an intelligent choice. We also learned that the majority of the trees that have survived in other areas where the EAB has been found have been White Ash trees.

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Sue was asked by the town administrator what our board policy is for Social Media and we responded that we are not involved in Social Media.

We plan to discuss our budget for the upcoming season at the next board meeting. Members have been asked to consider what items we feel would be necessary or helpful for continuing our work for the town.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 20, 2019 - location TBA  
Submitted by Dorcas Jones, Sue Lovering