

Town of Harvard
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451

Agenda: Elm Commission In-person / Zoom Meeting; December 7 at 7:30 PM at Townhall (2nd floor Volunteer Meeting Room)

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Review Potential Actions

Potential Actions / Discussion:

1. Review elm fungicide injection plan.
2. Discuss tree planting for the spring (i.e. oak between General Store and Church to replace maple that was removed?). Mature canopy can be 50' in diameter.
3. Need to trim remaining trees (~25) from DPW cuts. Matt and Bill "fixed" ~25 trees already.
4. Discuss inter department tree pruning policy that would partner with DPW and schools. When DPW / schools want a branch pruned in the town corridor, around schools or at a park, DPW would flag the branch with surveyors tape and notify the Elm Commission in writing (email with location and description). The Elm Commission would make any appropriate cuts at the correct times of the year (prior to April 1 and after October 1).
5. Now that the original Phair Elm is down, review logistics behind moving the "Phair rock memorial" next to the replacement Princeton Elm on the same Common. Do we still want to get permission from stakeholders to have Phair rock memorial be installed so that it is flush to the ground—expect Select Board will need to review and approve?
6. Based on above planned expenditures, determine sources of funding (Forestry budget vs HTF).
7. Bill is going to meet with HES people in regards to new tree care questions (open space plan needs accurate inventory of new plantings).
8. Other items that attendees would like to discuss.

For Reference Pre-Covid Shutdown:

Minutes Elm Commission Meeting; March, 8 2020 at 7:30 PM; location at Hildreth House

Attendees: JC Ferguson, Mario Cardenas and Bill Calderwood

Potential Actions / Discussion:

9. Review elm fungicide injection past and present plan (June injection estimate is \$4,089 with an option for an additional basal drench treatment for \$500). As S4 was removed in 2019, the elm injection cost for 2020 is actually \$3,609 (9, 17, 25, 40, S7 and S8). The Forestry budget will pay for the injections and the Harvard Tree Fund (HTF) will pay for the basal drench treatment (26, S7 and S8).
10. Review estimates for old elm pruning to take place in March. One quote was \$4,340 for 4 trees and another quote was \$3,000 for 9 trees. It was agreed by all that with proper supervision, the lower cost quote was the right way to go. Bill walked all 9 trees with both contractors and the lower cost quote from H. M. Flagg will be complete by the end of March. HTF will be the source of payment. H.M Flagg is in the vendor system. Bill asked for the latest proof of insurance.
11. Review soil sample results from 2019, determine amount of lime needed for each location and see if DPW can order, store and distribute lime. Three samples were obtained and analyzed by Matt Shields (no charge for data in separate attached file). The front of the library, the Little Common and the main Common need lime (pelletized-- 40 pounds per 1000sf once this year and a repeat application in the fall or 2021 spring). The Little Common was found to have high levels of sodium (road salt on Fairbank?). Bill will discuss with Tim Kilhart and Tim Bragan. Any lime or fertilization is planned to be paid for by the HTF gift fund.
12. Review logistics behind removing the Phair Elm (#3) and moving the "Phair rock memorial" next to the replacement Princeton Elm on the same Common. Want to get permission from stakeholders to have Phair rock memorial be installed so that it is flush to the ground—expect to move rock prior to tree removal with volunteers / DPW. JC plans to take #3 down, but Bill will verify who stakeholders are and get input from them in regards to moving the Phair rock memorial prior to removing #3. JC will coordinate removal of #3 and stump grinding. Bill will coordinate management of the Phair memorial stone. The memorial may need a footing for longevity so DPW heavy equipment might be very helpful to dig a hole and establish a new footing.
13. Based on above planned expenditures, determine sources of funding (Forestry budget vs HTF). See above
14. Likely will need to replace the white oak already re-planted near the "big rock"—suggest scarlet red oak as new replacement. This should be a no charge item. The first grade tree plantings will be delayed until after the elementary school construction is complete.
15. Tom Garfield good to go for tree watering this season? Tom has signed up for another season (thanks!).
16. Discuss funding vs budget for June 2020 –June 2021 from Forestry Budget (more pruning of old Elms- #44 will need a lane closure on 110 near the Catholic church). With tree take downs needing to increase over time (roadside safety, MGL87, lack of funding in the past and heat / drought stress), the Tree Warden has requested and the Elm Commission supports a 10% increase to the Forestry budget each year.