
Memo

DATE: October 30, 2020

TO: Williston Selectboard

FROM: Erik Wells, Town Manager

RE: EMERALD ASH BORER AND TOWN PARK SPACES

I discussed the possible impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on Town park spaces with Recreation and Parks Director Todd Goodwin and Conservation Planner Melinda Scott.

The Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan developed for the Town a few years ago mainly pertains to ash trees in the public right-of-way. With regard to parks, it says “Ash trees in town parks and on conserved lands will be left alone. As the trees die during the infestation they will fall naturally and decompose. Trees near public paths will be monitored and if they become a danger to the public they will be removed.”

Town staff is exploring opportunities for ash tree inventories in the park and conservation spaces moving forward. The Conservation Commission is discussing the EAB at its meeting the morning of November 4th. I will share any recommendations moving ahead regarding the EAB in parks and conservation spaces with the Selectboard.