



Karyn MacNeill
Director

kmacneill@yarmouth.me.us
www.yarmouthcommunityservices.org

200 Main Street • Yarmouth, Maine 04096 • Phone (207) 846-2406 • FAX (207) 846-2421

To: Yarmouth Residents
Date: April 4, 2022
Subject: Yarmouth's Street Trees and Emerald Ash Borer

For over 60 years, the Town of Yarmouth has placed a high priority on the preservation and management of trees that border town streets. Several years ago, an inventory of street trees was conducted to identify those trees associated with the appeal of walking and driving corridors throughout the downtown Yarmouth areas. The inventory process located street trees by variety, size, and health. Many important street trees were found to be the Ash variety.

Nationwide, Ash trees are under assault by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which usually leads to the death of the tree in a fairly short period. The devastation of Ash trees is occurring in many states. Nearby, many Maine towns have been invaded by this insect. Arborists have investigated the Maine situation and recommend the initiation of a preventive insecticide application program to protect the currently healthy Ash population.

Following this recommendation and due to the importance of trees that contribute to the visual quality of Yarmouth streetscapes, the Town will be undertaking an Ash tree preservation program for selected trees in or near street rights-of-way and on town-owned properties. The selected protective actions will entail trunk injections of an insecticide, removal of trees, or no action at all.

Nevertheless, we expect there will be significant loss of mature trees and the Town's program is targeted only to selected trees immediately along public streets and those on town properties. Additional information regarding Ash tree loss due to the Emerald Ash Borer or the EAB treatment options can be found at the State of Maine website www.maine.gov and as available through links at www.yarmouth.me.us or www.YarmouthCommunityServices.org.

To reach the Town staff overseeing tree management programs please contact Yarmouth Community Services, 200 Main Street, Yarmouth, Maine 04096; (207) 846-2406.

For those homeowners interested in inspections of Ash trees in their properties, there are professionals who can assist with an evaluation of private trees and an explanation of options for the maintenance of healthy trees. A list of local arborists and licensed tree specialists will be made available at www.YarmouthCommunityServices.org.

Thank you for considering the health of our town's tree legacy.

Sincerely,

Creating community through people, parks and programs.