



TREE COMMITTEE

Annual Report for FY2021

The West Newbury Tree Committee is comprised of 5 members appointed by the Selectmen along with 2 associates and the Town Tree Warden (serving ex officio). Members in FY2021 were: Fred Chanania, Chair; Jane Martin, Vice-Chair; Margaret (Molly) Hawkins, recording secretary; Francesca Pomerantz, Claudia Woods-Estin, Barbara Haack, Rita Wollmering, and Wayne Amaral (Tree Warden).

The Tree Committee remains the primary local source for obtaining information about and assistance for the trees in West Newbury. We also consult regularly with the Town Tree Warden. The Committee's interests and activities extend to all facets of our town's trees and forests, for example:

- providing advice and educational materials to residents on the selection, planting, and care of trees, especially in light of climate change and with an emphasis on native trees;
- hosting community-wide events to enhance residents' appreciation of West Newbury's trees and of the forest legacy of our town;
- helping to protect the Town's trees and forests both from pest and/or disease threats such as the EAB and from construction-related activities;
- providing advice on maintaining the trees along our scenic roads; and
- highlighting particular trees in West Newbury that are significant or remarkable.

In FY2021, the Tree Committee held its monthly meetings throughout the year in a virtual Zoom format in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Our FY2021 budget was \$3012, of which \$1043 was expended by the Committee during FY 2021 with the rest used by the Tree Warden. Of the \$3012 budgeted, approximately \$1550 will qualify for state reimbursement in FY 2022 under the Mass DCR challenge grant.

Major activities and accomplishments in FY2021 included:

- Implementing the Mass. DCR challenge grant and obtained tree measuring equipment and scheduled training (some training delayed due to COVID);
- Approving of 5 trees for inclusion on the Roster of Significant and Remarkable Trees in West Newbury;
- Sponsoring a community-wide teleconference with several state forestry officials and research experts on the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, which has become a major problem in West Newbury forests (especially in the Pipestave-Mill Pond complex);
- Providing the community with information on combatting the EAB problem;
- Adopting guidance related to removal and replacement of trees located along scenic roads (public property only) in coordination with Wayne Amaral, Town Tree Warden and DPW Director;
- Adopting guidance on avoiding damage to trees during construction activity;

- Making numerous site visits in connection with resident inquiries, National Grid tree cutting, and nominations for Roster of Significant and Remarkable Trees;
- Holding the inaugural Arbor Day celebration on April 30 and May 1, 2021. 100 tree seedlings were given away to community residents and two, hour-long virtual presentations were offered to the public on the history of West Newbury trees and on a virtual tour on identifying common West Newbury tree species;
- Fred Chanania, Chair, became a Massachusetts Certified Arborist;
- Presentation at spring Town Meeting about Tree Committee activities (EAB, tree survey)
- Planning and implementing the first-ever Community Tree Survey to determine the attitudes of community members towards West Newbury's trees and priorities for the Tree Committee;
- Maintaining and updating the Tree Committee website and using various outreach entities (newspapers, social media, town email blasts) to provide information on topics, such as the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, the Roster of Significant and Remarkable Trees, tree selection, care, pruning, and maintenance, the electronic Community Tree Survey, and a list of native trees suitable for planting in West Newbury

The Tree Committee remains committed to protecting the forested landscape of West Newbury and to assisting property owners on tree-related matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Chanania
Chairperson, West Newbury Tree Committee