

**TREE COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY  
Annual Report for FY 2020**

The West Newbury Tree Committee was chartered by the Board of Selectmen on August 5, 2019 to:

- assist in the identification, protection, and preservation of significant and remarkable trees in West Newbury;
- provide education to the Town and residents of West Newbury on measures that will help to protect and preserve significant and remarkable trees in West Newbury; and
- provide information and assistance generally regarding the values, protection, and preservation of the trees and forests in West Newbury.

The Tree Committee is comprised of 5 members appointed by the Selectmen along with 2 associates and the Town Tree Warden (serving ex officio). The Tree Committee met monthly starting in Fall 2020 and got off to a strong start. In FY 2020, the Tree Committee:

- applied for and was awarded a grant from the Mass. DCR for tree measuring equipment and training (training delayed due to COVID);
- created and instituted a nomination process for the Roster of Significant and Remarkable Trees in West Newbury;
- coordinated with Wayne Amaral, the Town Tree Warden (and Director, DPW) on developing guidance for trees located on public rights of way;
- distributed 250+ tree seedlings to Garden Club and Tree Committee members for further distribution to town residents (community-wide distribution event canceled due to COVID);
- used a USFS web-based application (i-Tree) to estimate that West Newbury has about 57% tree cover, based on samplings of over 2000 points;
- participated in 3 outdoor sessions to learn tree identification by bark type;
- created its home website containing substantial information about trees in West Newbury, including planting, caring for, and protecting trees, how to find local arborists, the impacts of climate change, and web links to other organizations dedicated to trees and forests.

The Tree Committee is committed to being the primary local source for obtaining information and timely assistance for the trees in West Newbury and to working closely with the Town Tree Warden. The Committee's interests extend from illuminating the historical legacy of the West Newbury trees throughout the different eras of land usage in West Newbury to protecting the Town's trees during the current period of housing development. The Committee is committed to assisting property owners in combatting current and future threats to their trees, such as the Gypsy Moth and the Emerald Ash Borer invasions. The Committee will also continue to provide information and assistance related to the impacts of climate change on the trees of West Newbury. Finally, the Committee's interest in hosting community-wide events related to trees and forests remains a priority even though the FY 2020 Arbor Day celebration and Tree ID Walks were interrupted by COVID. Planning for these events will be reinstated as soon as feasible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Chanania  
Chairperson of West Newbury Tree Committee