

Pondicherry Park Stewardship Committee

Minutes from 4/10/2024

- 1.) Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM at the Bob Dunning Bridge, Pondicherry Park
- 2.) In attendance: Lauren Pickford, Chair (LEA), Paul Tworog (Town), Anne Mann (Public), Matt Markot (LELT), Justin Ward (LEA), Dan Edwards (Public).
- 3.) Ham Bridge ramp update – Matt Markot updated the committee stating construction will begin soon. The committee recommends the town improve the section of the trail from the end of the ramp to the accessible trail.
- 4.) Lauren Pickford presented a 1 page EAB management plan for the committee's review. Comments and edits requested before the July 10th meeting.
- 5.) Signage for dog policy update - LELT to handle signage and invoice town as appropriate.
- 6.) Other:
 - A.) Discussion of a spring clean up based on the amount of storm damage
- 7.) Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM
Minutes recorded by Lauren Pickford
Next meeting is 7/10/2024 at the Dunning Bridge

DRAFT

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for Pondicherry Park as recommended by the Pondicherry Park Committee on __/__/__

Emerald Ash Borer impact will begin to present itself in the coming years. The committee recommends removing dead or dying ash trees in proximity to the walking trails and structures as outlined in the management plan. Other standing deadwood not considered a threat to visitors or structures by the Public Services Department, should be left to provide wildlife habitat. The Town may want to consider identifying and treating some of the few legacy ash trees in the Park with pesticides.

Scope: This plan applies throughout the 66-acre Pondicherry Park where ash trees are currently growing.

Ash Treatment and Removal: The committee recommends removing dead or dying ash trees in proximity to the walking trails and structures as outlined in the Pondicherry Park management plan.

"...Vegetation Management

Hazards: Remove trees in proximity to trails and structures that are deemed hazardous by a licensed arborist. Leave dying and dead trees that are not a hazard in place for wildlife habitat purposes." See page 7 of management plan

Other standing deadwood not considered a threat to visitors or structures by the Public Services Department, should be left to provide wildlife habitat.

The Town may want to consider identifying and treating some of the few legacy ash trees in the Park with pesticides.

"...Pesticides and other toxic agents may be used if in accordance with applicable federal, state or local statutes and/or prevailing guidelines. Such use, storage, discharge or runoff shall only be conducted to control invasive species, disease or infestations that threaten the ecosystem of the Park." See page 7 of the management plan

Wood Utilization and Disposal To comply with Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry the following rules apply:

Movement of ash wood outside of the quarantine area is only allowed under certain conditions. Refer to Appendix A, Chapter 275: EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE for details.

Movement of ash wood within the quarantined area of the state is allowed without restriction (see appendix B for quarantined areas).

List of Appendices

A: Chapter 275: EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE

B: EAB Management Map

C: Best Management Practices for Handling Ash Wood... Maine Within Regulated Areas

D: Pondicherry Park Management Plan