

Burke Conservation Commission Minutes of April 15 2020 meeting
(draft)

The meeting was held via Zoom, due to the Covid 19 lockdown.

Present: Cathy Wheeler, Elise Lawson, Chris Manges, Ric Prescott, Joan Harlowe

Guests: Matthew Clark, Matt Langlais

Agenda: Planning for the Emerald Ash Borer

The EAB is expected to come to Burke. There are many ash trees in East and West Burke. Matt Clark offers a survey/ inventory by drone. This would be a pilot project for his company and would take place on Darling Hill Road and Burke Green Road (~ 5miles) after leaf out. The drone would identify canopy health as EAB goes to stressed trees. As a pilot project, Matt offers this free of charge.

Burke Conservation Commission members and interested volunteers from the community will conduct the same survey on the ground. We can then compare results from the drone work by Matt Clark and on-th-ground survey. Matt Langlais offered to help train BCC members after leaf-out.

The drone will be pre-programmed. He would launch second drone which would make a 3D model possible. He needs a launching area with a 50 foot line of sight. Brian Kelly's hayfield would work in June while the hay is still small.

The goal of this work is to enable the Town of Burke to take proactive measures to plan for the inevitable infestation of EAB, which could be costly to the Town as a whole. Our hope is that we can spread out the cost over several years.

Next meeting: May 20 (probably by Zoom)

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Harlowe