

## **Identification and Removal of Danger Trees Along Granville's Class 3 Roads**

**Goal:** Reduce the potential for accidents or injuries from trees falling across the roads.

**Current Situation:** We have numerous dead, leaning or severely weakened trees standing alongside our roads. In high winds, heavy snows, and sometimes with no provocation except old age, these trees do fall into the roads. No serious injuries have occurred (that I recall) but the potential is high. For the most part, Granville has reacted by cleaning up the downed timber after the fact. I am proposing a more aggressive approach to cut these trees safely before they fall.

**Selectboard approval:** Before beginning, the selectboard would have to approve/modify my proposal and allocate funds to hire a contractor. The selectboard would alert Granville landowners who have property alongside the roads in advance of this initiative so that they may participate to the fullest extent. The Town Road Commissioner should be involved at all stages.

**My Proposal:** As Tree Warden, I would:

- Survey all 17 miles of Class 3 roads and mark with paint those trees to be removed.
- Keep a tally of each tree by 9-1-1 address, species, diameter, condition and any special problems involved (such as power lines, barbed wire).
- Once all the field data is gathered, notify affected landowners to view the marked trees on their property, should they wish to do so.
- Hold a Tree Warden Hearing. Invite landowners and others. Modify the proposed action based on feedback and suggestions.
- Draft a final proposed action plan for selectboard approval and implementation.

### **Questions I Have:**

- Though I will volunteer my services, I need a person to work with me to complete the initial survey of 17 miles of road.
- I intend to paint the danger trees near stump level so as to reduce visual impact, since the paint will be obvious for years. Is this a problem for any landowner?
- Upon felling, the trees should be left for firewood. Extent of cleanup (out of the ditches, or meadows) needs to be defined.
- If the selectboard is in favor, but doesn't wish to take on the entire 17 miles right now, give me your priorities and a timeline.
- Cost. I cannot estimate cost. If selectboard wishes, a sample project could be set up, advertised, and bid as a first step. A firmer cost estimate per mile would be the result.

Norm Arseneault  
Granville Tree Warden  
July 11, 2019

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The above proposal was informally approved by the selectboard at their meeting on 7/11/19. They

added these suggestions:

- Trees interfering with plowing should be considered as danger trees.
- All designated trees should be within the town right-of-way. In the event a danger tree stands outside the ROW, permission to cut must be obtained from the landowner.
- Selectboard priority for the first segment to be treated is the North Hollow Rd. from Butz Road north to Route 100. A report on this segment will be made at the 8/8/19 Selectboard Meeting.
- Bruce Hyde agreed to help me identify and mark the trees along the roads.

Anyone with questions about this initiative should call me at 767-3853.

Norm Arseneault  
Granville Tree Warden  
July 17, 2019