

Jeremy Marsette, PE

Director of Public Works

PHONE 508-647-6550

EMAIL jmarsette@natickma.org



LOCATED AT
Department of Public Works
75 West Street
Natick, Massachusetts
01760

Arthur Goodhind, MCA, MQTW

Tree Warden, Land Facilities and Natural Resources Division Supervisor

PHONE 508-647-6558

EMAIL agoodhind@natickma.org

Town of Natick • Public Works

Natick Board of Selectmen
Town of Natick
13 East Central Street
Natick Massachusetts 01760

RE: Emerald Ash Borer Infestation-Town Common
CC: Melissa Malone Town Administrator, Jeremy Marsette Director of Public Works,
Natick Parks and Recreation Commission, Karen Partanen Director of Parks and Recreation

Thursday June 25th, 2020

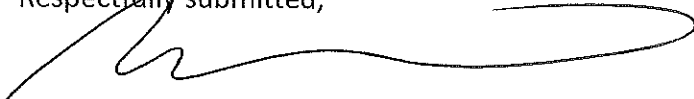
Dear Natick Selectmen,

This letter is written to provide notice that Natick has likely experienced an infestation of an invasive insect pest known as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect pest that was accidentally introduced into the United States in 2002 and aggressively attacks and ultimately kills Ash trees as well as some other select tree species. As infestations were recorded in Massachusetts, the Department of Public Works began an EAB suppression strategy by protecting the most valuable public Ash trees. Ash trees represent approximately three percent of the total population of Public Trees in Natick, with many more on private property. Unfortunately due to the aggressive nature of this pest and the confirmed infestations in nearby communities, the EAB population has exceeded our threshold to suppress and the EAB has been identified on the Natick Town Common.

On the Natick Town Common there are ten Ash trees, nine of which have a confirmed infestation, with one having a probable infestation. The damage caused by the EAB to these trees is irreversible and the trees are experiencing rapid decline. Unfortunately these ten trees will need to be removed due to the rapid decline and the presence of this invasive insect pest. The known infestation of EAB on the Town Common creates a condition of a Public Nuisance Pest and these ten trees will be removed as soon as possible, likely early July of 2020. Once removed the wood will be handled and disposed of in manner consistent with the guidelines set forth by the forestry officials of the Commonwealth.

The Department of Public Works fully understands the impact this tree removal will have on the Natick Town Common and the Department plans to replant this area with different tree species in the Spring of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur Goodhind', written over a horizontal line.

Arthur Goodhind MCA, MQTW