

May 16, 2018  
6:32 PM

A caucus meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of West Long Branch was held on the above date and time in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 965 Broadway, West Long Branch, N.J.

Mayor Janet W. Tucci presided.

Mayor Tucci reported that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 adequate notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council has been provided.

PRESENT: BRAY, MANGO, MIGLIACCIO, NEYHART  
ABSENT: JULIANO, PENTA

Ellen Whitford, the Shade Tree Commission Chair, introduced Rachel McCarthy, a member of the Commission, who gave the following presentation:

Shade Tree Commission Report on the Emerald Ash Borer Rapid Ash Survey Report received from the Rutgers Urban Forestry Program in partnership with the NJ State Forestry Services.

### **History of the Spread:**

Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic invasive insect that is quickly advancing through NJ. It kills ash trees as the larvae bore through the fluid conducting vessels under the bark of the tree. "There is a high likelihood that all untreated ash trees will become infested and die" as the Emerald Ash Borer spreads.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Rapid Ash Survey Report**

In the Summer of 2015, the Rutgers Urban Forestry Program in partnership with the NJ State Forestry Services conducted a *rapid survey of ash trees in several NJ municipalities*. "The goal of this effort was to get an idea of how extensive the municipally controlled ash tree population is throughout NJ, in order to better understand the financial and environmental impact that Emerald Ash Borer will have on NJ municipalities. West Long Branch was selected for inclusion in this ash survey due to its size and location." They then shared the report with us to assist us in preparation for the arrival of this invasive insect.

## **Status of Emerald Ash Infestation for West Long Branch**

In the report it was assumed that it will take 8 years from the onset of Emerald Ash Borer infestation until all untreated ash trees are lost. *Because Emerald Ash Borer has not been confirmed in West Long Branch, but was confirmed in Monmouth County in 2015 (Allentown 2015, Manalapan 2017), the report assumes (for planning purposes) that our infestation is now in year 5, leaving 3 years to remove trees until all are lost if left untreated.* Ash trees pose a hazard when they deteriorate and die, as they become very brittle and will fall, so they must be removed when they show signs of failing.

The report found that West Long Branch has **25 municipal ash trees**. The Shade Tree Commission used the tools and map included in the report and the educational opportunities at the 2016 Annual Shade Tree Federation Conference to conduct our own survey of these 25 trees. We created a detailed binder of information about each tree that will enable us to track the deterioration of the trees and make specific recommendations for handling each tree.

### **Location of Ash Trees in WLB**

We found our *municipal ash burden to be lower than was found in the report*. When the Rapid Ash Survey was conducted, it was assumed a municipal right of way of 10 feet. Trees within that right of way were assumed to be municipal property, regardless of our local ordinance. Many trees included are on private property, although they are within the 10 feet of right of way.

Our survey found **9 municipal ash trees. 4 are located in a wooded area on Parker Rd. between South Belle Dr. and Monmouth Rd., 3 are within Michael Thorne Park and 2 are on Wall St. at the front of the Owens Property.**

### **Recommendations**

Based on our findings, Shade Tree Commission does not recommend treating our municipal trees with insecticide. We recommend the following:

- 1) Watching the trees by conducting an annual survey to look for signs of failing, such as 50% or greater crown loss, dead branches and other hazards or signs of ill health.
- 2) Hiring a professional to remove the trees as needed and/or consult to determine if a tree should be removed for safety reasons.
- 3) Replacing at least the 5 trees at Owens Property and Michael Thorne Park with other non-host species when the ash are removed. These trees provide much needed shade and beauty in these parks.
- 4) Community Outreach

This will be an important part of our response to the Emerald Ash Borer. We have found that **16 of the ash trees in the Rapid Ash Survey Report are thought to be on private property.** There may also be more ash trees on private property that were not included in the Rapid Ash Survey Report or in our own survey.

**Action Taken:** We placed a "Pest Alert" on the West Long Branch website. We also distributed pest alert flyers at the Environmental Commission Recycling event and at the Library. We plan to write letters to notify the private property owners, businesses and institutions that we identified as having ash trees of the problem. We will inform them of the possible hazard posed by these trees and recommend that they consult with a Certified Tree Expert. We need to caution Residents not to move ash wood from within municipal limits unless it is chipped or the bark is removed, to slow the spread of the ash borer within the state.

#### **BOROUGH ATTORNEY BAXTER:**

1. The Borough received a response from the Planning Board, through Councilman Bray, who serves on the Board, indicating that they agreed with treating the ordinance prohibiting the sale, growth, and manufacturing of marijuana as a zoning issue and that the consensus of the Board was to move forward with the draft ordinance prepared by the Borough Attorney. It was determined that the ordinance would be introduced at tonight's regular meeting.

Councilwoman Mango moved that the Council enter Executive Session at 6:52 PM. Seconded by Councilman Neyhart and carried unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following portion of this meeting dealing with the following generally described matters shall not be open to the public:

*Sewer Authority Litigation; Personnel (Administration)*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is anticipated that the matters to be considered in private may be disclosed to the public at a later date under the following circumstances:

**When the need for privacy as to each item no longer exists.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the private consideration is deemed required and is permitted because of the following noted exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Rendered confidential by Federal law or that if disclosed would impair receipt of Federal funds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Rendered confidential by State Statute or Court Rule.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Deals with collective bargaining or any employment agreement, including negotiations positions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Deals with purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Related to setting of bank rates or the investment of public funds and disclosure could adversely affect the public interest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Related to tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public and disclosure may adversely affect the public.

- ☐ 8. Related to investigation of violations or possible violations of the law.
- ☒ 9. Related to pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may be a party.
- ☐ 10. Falls within the attorney-client privilege and confidentiality is required.
- ☒ 11. Deals with personnel matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, performance evaluation or discipline of any public officers or employees, either current or prospective, and all of the employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested that the matter be discussed publicly.
- ☐ 12. Quasi-judicial deliberations after public hearing that may result in imposition of a civil penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit.

Councilman Neyhart moved Council adjourn at 7:12 PM, seconded by Councilman Bray, and carried unanimously.

  
BOROUGH CLERK