

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
EMERALD ASH BORER
ADOPT-AN-ASH TREE PROGRAM

APRIL 13, 2009

The public informational meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy.

Board of Public Works Members present: Ron LaPean, Scott Volkert, Pat Murray, and Edwin Dietrich.

Staff Present: Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Dave Murphy, Utility Director Tom Krueger, Superintendent of Public Works Gary Helm, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Depies.

Others Present: There were six interested residents in attendance.

Mr. Murphy introduced Superintendent of Public Works Helm indicating that he is in charge of the forestry program and has attended many training opportunities and seminars regarding the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Mr. Helm presented some photos of the EAB as well as pictures of what the tunneling under the bark looks like. Mr. Helm explained that the EAB was first found in Michigan, and due to lack of knowledge about the insect they did not know what to do to eliminate the insect, therefore they cut down all the Ash trees within 1.5 miles of the infected area. Since that time it has been discovered that the chemical - Imidacloprid can protect the tree from the EAB.

Mr. Helm had two different bottles of Tree and Shrub Protect & Feed products at the meeting that had Imidacloprid as the main active ingredient. He noted that this is the way that property owners can treat their Ash trees without hiring an arborist or certified applicator. The chemical is mixed with water and poured from the base of the tree out to the fall line. The fall line is the point where the top flare of the tree ends, where the rain would fall freely without being hindered from the leaves. Mr. Helm explained that this soil drench method of treatment needs to be done on annual basis until the EAB is no longer a threat to the area.

Mr. Helm also noted that Imidacloprid can cause the ground to become hard, therefore the property owner may need to aerate the ground around the tree after a few years to ensure that the soil continues to absorb the chemical.

Gary then demonstrated the direct-inject program that the Village will be using. While demonstrating on a cut log, he explained that a certified sprayer or arborist will Wedgle

(pop a small hole into the bark), then they will put a needle into that hole and inject the tree with the Imidacloprid. With this method the chemical goes directly to into the cambial zone where the EAB feed. This treatment needs to be done on a bi-annual basis.

There were many handouts available regarding the EAB and ways to treat and protect your trees. A DVD regarding the Michigan experience was also available for residents to take.

Mr. Helm noted that the Village of Grafton has approximately 700 street and park Ash trees and it is unknown how many privately owned Ash trees there are.

Mr. Helm stated that it is his belief that the EAB is already here, however our Ash trees can be saved with proper treatment. He noted that the EAB was found in Newburg last year; however experts' suspect that it was there for a least 5 years before the signs of the insect were visible.

Mr. Helm strongly recommended that the Village and our residents be proactive in retaining the hundreds of Ash trees in the Village by starting treatments now.

Mr. Murphy stated that if you choose not to treat your trees and you notice them starting to fail, you should cut them down immediately. Once an Ash trees becomes infected with the EAB and the tree begins to die it becomes very brittle and dangerous.

There was a question from a resident on how the Village was going to handle the wood from an infected tree. Mr. Helm explained that an infected Ash tree must be taken to a Marshalling yard for special handling. The bark would be stripped, chipped, and stored. There are regulations that need to be followed.

There were no further questions or comments; therefore the public informational meeting was ended.