

I just want to concur with Jim's Email. It is bad out there. As I spoke about at my presentation last year, the large trees that have died a couple of years ago are starting to come down and it will only get worse. The drought we are going through now is making things worse and we will see more tree failures. The gypsy moth has did subside, but might rebound due to lack of moisture. The emerald ash borer is going to only get worse.

I know it is a tough decision, but a "planned tree removal program" costs a whole lot less per tree then emergency work. We need to get that message out to the residents.

The focus of this appropriation if passed will be Forrest, Birch and Orchard / Middlesex, but there are many other areas of Town that need attention.

Brutus – Millis Tree Warden

Mike,

I think if we are going to show an accurate picture of the safety issues surrounding the need of removing/trimming dead trees the following amounts should be included. I've been working with the tree warden on a presentation for the November, Town Meeting and this is some of what I have come up with.

Eversource has invested \$290,000.00 for removing/trimming and take down of dead trees in Millis in the past 2-years (please see the email from Eversource arborist below). I would ask that you please pay attention as Chris points out how the Ash tree is in great decline and will need to be addressed as soon as next summer.

As for the FY21 budget I have 3 outstanding invoices from Pathfinder, I should be getting the amount today and with the 10K reduction in FY21 budget I am sure it will be in deficit already.

Treasa Brothers Sand and Gravel on Rt109 with the approval of the DPW and tree warden is spending over 25K to remove dead trees in the public right of way because of the safety of equipment and personnel that work on the property.

I have worked with the tree warden on the next group of trees needing to be taken down with town meeting approval in November, and that will not even put a dent in what needs to be taken down.

I would ask all the next time when driving through various areas of town to take notice of how many trees are in desperate need of attention. As Myself and the tree warden have indicated to the board in the past this is becoming a safety hazard to the community.

Again I would ask that you Please share with the finance committee like roads this is not going away anytime soon,

Jim

James F. McKay

Director
Department of Public Works
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054
Tel: 508-376-5424
Fax: 508-3762442
jmckay@millisma.gov

Hi Jim,

I looked into the last 2 years of trees removals Eversource has done in Millis as requested. I omitted 2018 because no trees were removed.

2019- Approx. \$100,000 spent on tree removals from public and private property
2020- Approx. \$190,000 spent on tree removals from public and private property

This is an inordinate amount of money to spend on tree removals from one town over the course of 2 years. The reason Millis was targeted for these substantial tree removal projects is in large part due to the huge number of oak trees that have died over the last few years from repeated gypsy moth caterpillar defoliation. These dead trees pose a major threat to public safety and electric reliability as they break apart, or keel over. Ash trees have also been in decline for many years, and I expect the invasive insect pest emerald ash borer to be the next major threat to trees in Millis. I have already positively identified this pest in Millis, and feel that you will notice ash trees starting to die in large numbers next summer.

Let me know if you need any other info.

Thanks,

Christopher Gonzalez
Arborist
Eversource Energy
ISA Cert# NE-6532AU
MCA# 2504
781-441-8287

From: Mike Guzinski <mguzinski@millisma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Jim McCaffrey <jmccaffrey@millisma.gov>; Pete Jurmain <Pete.Jurmain@millisma.gov>; Erin T. Underhill <etunderhill@millisma.gov>
Cc: Karen Bouret <kbouret@millisma.gov>; Carol Johnston <cjohnston@millisma.gov>; Jim McKay <jmckay@millisma.gov>
Subject: FW: Tree Trimming Historical Expenditures

Good morning,

I thought that you might be interested in the attached information in regards to historical budgeting/expenditures for tree trimming in Millis, which was requested by a member of the Finance Committee (in reference to the FATM Warrant Article 8).

Thanks.

Mike

From: Carol Johnston <cjohnston@millisma.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 3:29 PM

To: Peter Berube <pberube@millisma.gov>

Cc: Mike Guzinski <mguzinski@millisma.gov>

Subject: Tree Trimming Historical Expenditures

Hi Pete,

Please see information below regarding Tree Trimming Expense:

| DPW Tree Care Expense | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Year | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| FY2021 | 1,750 | 15,000 | 13,250 |
| FY2020 | 26,990 | 25,000 | (1,990) |
| FY2019 | 26,600 | 25,578 | (1,022) |
| FY2018 | 18,050 | 25,578 | 7,528 |
| FY2017 | 15,197 | 25,578 | 10,381 |
| FY2016 | 13,893 | 25,578 | 11,685 |
| FY2015 | 12,380 | 25,578 | 13,198 |
| FY2014 | 8,560 | 25,578 | 17,018 |
| FY2013 | 26,100 | 25,578 | (522) |
| FY2012 | 58,285 | 25,578 | (32,707) |
| FY2011 | 17,270 | 25,578 | 8,308 |
| Total | 225,075 | 270,202 | 45,127 |

| DPW Tree Trim/Removal Article | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Year | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| FY2020 | 50,000 | 50,000 | - |

Hope this helps,
Carol

From: Peter Berube <pberube@millisma.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 10:31 AM

To: Mike Guzinski <mguzinski@millisma.gov>; Carol Johnston <cjohnston@millisma.gov>

Subject: Tree Trimming Historical Expenditures

Good Morning Mike and Carol,

I hope you had a great weekend. Could you kindly provide me with data on how much the town allocated and/or appropriated for tree trimming yearly over the last 5 to 10 years?

Additionally, I'm interested in how much the town allocated and/or appropriated for repair/replacement of existing and construction of new sidewalks yearly over the same period. I understand that some sidewalk work is likely accomplished during large road/utility projects, so I'm more interested in stand-alone sidewalk work.

I'm hoping you can pull this together for FINCOM on 10/7, but fully appreciate it's a late request and you are busy.

Thank you,
Pete