

Bowdoinham Municipal Tree Plan December 2025

Mission Statement -

The mission of the Bowdoinham Tree Committee is to provide guidance and action plans for the long term stewardship of trees in public spaces and along rights-of-way.

Introduction:

In response to citizen concerns over the course of 2024/2025, a Municipal Tree Plan Committee was formed in order to develop a tree plan for the town moving forward. The purpose of the Bowdoinham Municipal Tree Plan is to ensure communication around a plan of “best practices” for the health and maintenance of the town’s municipal trees.¹ The plan necessitates the creation of a Tree Committee which will act as an advisory and communication body, working together with the Select Board, the Town Manager, the Public Works Department, the Cemetery Advisory Committee, the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and the citizens of Bowdoinham to help guide the town regarding tree care.

Committee Structure and Scope:

- The Town shall create a standing Municipal Tree Committee.
- The Municipal Tree Committee shall consist of at least 5 members, all of whom shall be volunteers from the town of Bowdoinham.
- The term of membership is 3 years.
- A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the Municipal Tree Committee.
- The Committee shall elect a chair person, vice chair, and Secretary.
- The Committee shall meet on such a schedule and at such dates as it shall deem necessary and expedient, but not less frequently than quarterly.
- Phase 1 of this plan will focus primarily on Village District 1

Tasks:

Tasks will include initiating specific projects, such as:

- Surveying, assessing and documenting the town’s municipal trees, starting with Village District 1 and all town cemeteries.
- Creating a remediation plan for the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Compiling a list of resources relevant to tree care and making this available to the public.
- Periodic and systematic monitoring of municipal trees.
- Identifying sources of funding to support such tasks.²

Tasks will also include advising and communicating with relevant entities about best practices, such as:

- Preservation, especially of “heritage trees”.³
- Maintenance, in conjunction with public works.
- Removal, in response to professional assessments, and as necessary to protect public safety.
- Re-planting and new planting with a focus on best practice, emphasizing native trees and sustainability.
- Pest and disease guidance, with an initial focus on the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Presentation of public forums/workshops on topics pertinent to tree care.
- Future plans and vision for our municipal trees.

Endnotes/Definitions:

1- Municipal Trees: Any tree or woody vegetation that stands on municipal property or rights-of-way.

2- Project Canopy, USDA, Arbor Day Foundation, etc...

3- Heritage Tree: Any tree which because of age, size, species, historical association or horticultural value is of special importance.

Drafted and presented by planning members: Jan Marks (Chair), Peggy Christian (Vice Chair), Nina Mendall, Susan Drucker, Francis Drummond, Mark Tanner, Mike Roland, Hank Ogilby (Secretary)