

**Minutes  
Town of Bath Tree Board  
December 20, 2023**

The Tree Board held a special meeting on December 20, 2023 at 4:00PM. Members present were Tom Hall, Kate Lehman, Rebecca MacLeod, Lance Strait and Andy Swaim.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two items: 1) the two cherry trees in front of the water plant and 2) the Colorado Blue Spruce in Fairfax Green.

Water Department Trees: Tom Hall, Chair of the Water Committee, expressed concern to the Tree Board that the roots of the cherry trees could penetrate the foundation of the plant. Water is stored in a large area under the plant, and were the wall breached, the town water supply could be compromised. Derek Furry of Bartlett Tree Experts was asked to give his opinion of the situation. Based upon Mr. Furry's input, the Water Committee recommended the removal of the two trees, and suggested planting shrubs with a shallower root system in front of the building. Tom expressed the belief that employees of the Berkeley Springs Water Works could remove the trees and pull out the root balls. Help could be provided by town Public Works employees if needed. The Water Committee will provide funds for the purchase of shrubs. The Tree Board will provide appropriate shrubs as well as help to plant the shrubs.

Colorado Blue Spruce Tree in Fairfax Green: While in town for the Water Department issue, Derek Furry of Bartlett Tree Experts diagnosed the "Town Christmas Tree" with Needlecast. This is a treatable condition. Should the decision be made to save the tree, Bartlett recommends treatment over a three-month period, beginning in May. Soil care and fertilization can be provided at the same time to improve the overall health of the tree. The health of the tree is also compromised by English Ivy which is growing up the trunk. The ivy can be removed by town employees or members of the Tree Board. Bartlett Tree Experts provided a preliminary estimate of \$1000 to preserve the tree. The Tree Board does not currently have the funds to treat the tree. Hunter Clark of the Bath Christmas Project has been invited to the next Tree Board meeting to determine if the group has the financial resources to pay for the work recommended by Bartlett.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.