

### **Forest Board Report   December 2019**

In keeping with tradition, the Forest Board will not have a monthly meeting for the month of December to allow board members to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. However, the board is still very busy throughout the winter months as we continue the structural pruning program of recently planted easement trees.

The Forest Board will be pruning over 190 smaller easement trees that have been planted over the past several years. In addition to the smaller trees, the Forest Board will again promote a structural pruning program this winter for larger street easement trees. Through this program, the Forest Board will contact homeowners who have easement trees that are in need of pruning, arrange for pruning by arborists who are trained in structural pruning, and cover some of the cost (homeowners are responsible for partial cost as well) of structural pruning with the homeowners approval.

With the passing of the new tree ordinance, the Forest Board will also turn to focus on implementing standard operating processes. The first process in which we are working is the hazard tree removal/pruning process. The board has worked on one iteration of the process at the November meeting, and will work on the next iteration at the upcoming January meeting. Once this process is completed and documented, the Forest Board chair will share the process with interested city council members.

Lastly, the city web designer was able to upload the Forest Board's document detailing urban tree care on the city website homepage. The forest board chair will highlight this document in the spring newsletter, as well as on some of the city's social media platforms. Additionally, the forest board chair is working on updating the outdated text on the Forest Board webpage and hopes to have this completed in the coming months.

Michael Blum, Forest Board Chair