

Forest Board Report March 2019

Various Forest Board members participated in 6 work days since our last meeting, pruning and planting trees. Some of our tree purchases were back ordered last fall due to supply and to weather. The bare root selections are arriving now, as they do not do well when shipped in warm weather.

The Forest Board has implemented another new pruning program. This program is for selected trees that have been pruned by Forest Board volunteers for up to 10 years. Some of these trees are now so large that we do not have the tools or equipment to prune the last few branches. Street tree limbs should have a clearance of 12' to 15' from the ground. This pruning is done according to arborist specifications. The homeowners pay \$40 and the Forest Board budget makes up the difference. We arranged with an arborist to provide a group discount and the average total cost per tree should be around \$80. This has been a significant savings to homeowners as costs for arborist services can be \$200/hour with a one hour minimum. This service may be repeated in 3-5 years to completely remove limbs while leaving no permanent scar on the tree. 12 homeowners out of the 24 that were eligible signed up for the program. Participant feedback has been very positive and we plan to continue this program.

Leah Netherland, Forest Board Chair