

April 19, 2025

Richmond Conservation Commission,  
c/o Judy Rosovsky, Chair

**Re: Application for Conservation Reserve Funds to Support Bi-annual Treatment of Village Ash Trees**

Dear Commissioners,

It has been four years since Richmond engaged an IAS-certified arborist to care for the most prominent and healthy ash trees within and around the village in the face of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Specifically, in May 2021, Limbwalker Tree Service injected the insecticide emamectin benzoate into four trees in front of the town Center; one on the corner of Bridge Street and Church Street, two along Depot Street Extension; eleven along Church Street; one multi-stemmed ash on Cochran Rd; one 40" tree on Baker Street; and one 36" tree at the entrance to the Andrews Community Forest. A total of 21 trees (approximately 300") were treated.<sup>1</sup>

This insecticide treatment is highly effective and targeted, especially when injected into tree trunks (versus, for example, foliar sprays).<sup>2</sup> Treatments must be carried out every two years to ensure ongoing ash tree resistance to EAB and ought to occur in the spring when trees' vascular tissue is particularly active in transporting water and nutrients—and the insecticide—into the canopy for leaf-out. Doses are based on tree diameter and the advised amount may vary depending on EAB pressures. Accordingly, Limbwalker applied a low dose in 2021 when EAB was just emerging in the area. In 2023, they treated our trees with a medium dose in light of EAB's ongoing invasion.

Our ash trees are due for treatment again this year, and Limbwalker is recommending a high dose given the ubiquity of EAB. They have quoted the town \$4,800 to treat the trees (see appended quote), which I am requesting from the Conservation Reserve Fund.<sup>3</sup> Limbwalker has been an outstanding partner throughout this multi-year EAB management process, and they track which trees they have treated; I advise that we continue this ongoing relationship.

This application of CRF funds meet multiple CRF criteria:

- *Contributes toward the protection of natural resources in and of importance to Richmond.*
- *Yields a clear, sustainable benefit to Richmond residents in the form of preserving scenic and environmental values (e.g., beauty, shade, habitat).*
- *Is directed at threatened resources.*
- *Preserves biodiversity.*

Note that this will likely be a bi-annual request for CRF funds unless the town incorporates these tree-care expenses into the operating budget.

If this request is approved by the Richmond Conservation Commission, I will attend a Selectboard meeting to keep members apprised, carry out all coordination with Limbwalker, directly alert relevant landowners of this work, and post an update to Front Porch Forum.

Many thanks for your consideration.



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<sup>1</sup> This work was supported by Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund as well as a grant from Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry Program and was carried out in conjunction with select ash removals, diverse plantings, and utilization of the wood for local purposes (full report available upon request).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on EAB treatments see <https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/images/EABTreatment.pdf> and [http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/multistate\\_eab\\_insecticide\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/multistate_eab_insecticide_fact_sheet.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Note that two ash trees were inadvertently removed in front of the dentist's office, despite my alerting the business that the trees we being treated. In the future, I will remind relevant landowners multiple times each year of these treatments. The elimination of these two trees will modestly reduce the cost of treatment, but I am requesting the full quote to retain a modest buffer.