

**Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2009**

Selectmen Present were: Rosendel Gerry, Chairman, Richard M. McLaughlin and H. Bob Plausse. Excused: Cathy Hardy and E. Earle Brown

Also Present: Wes Davis and Kris Spiegel, CMP  
Will Brown, Lincolnville Conservation Commission  
Rocky Robinson and others, ABC Professional Tree Services  
David Kinney, Town Administrator

**1. Tree Trimming Update with CMP:**

Chairman Gerry welcomed those in attendance.

Will Brown gave a brief outline of the recent history:

- January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, promises made by CMP to communicate about planned activities
- February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with Selectmen, promises reiterated
- February 10<sup>th</sup>:
  - cutting started without promised communication
  - Bianchi situation not a clear understanding.
  - Call backs to Northport
  - According to Will during a conversation with Jose of ABC the level of clearing done in Northport similar to CMP acceptable work elsewhere

Brown asked what will lines of communication will be once immediate emergency (storm related) situation clears.

Wes Davis stated that they were not clear on the start date. Planned future work will be 15' over the wires, 8' to sides and ground cut underneath the wires. CMP can top "yard" trees but prefers not to. Big healthy leaders can stay. In remote areas full trim is expected/planned. Gray area if any is "yard" trees. Reliability is goal. The 800 D-1 Circuit is one of the worst performers. The PUC and costumers are concerned about the frequency and duration of outages. Davis stated that CMP can work with Bianchi on replanting and will try to accommodate. The CMP contact log for tree trimming has seen a spike in activity for Lincolnville. Davis asked that all contact with ABC be directed through Kris or Elmer and not the crews directly as ABC has a lump sum contract.

Plausse stated that the tree left at Bianchi looks like a toothpick and does not appear to be a good tree trimming practice. Davis stated that CMP would remove it if the work was not satisfactory.

Gerry stated that if Kris and Will could work together the Community and CMP could save a lot of heartache. Cleanup has been pathetic, a truckload of wood removed from Bianchi yard. Gerry questioned what will be left in the spring when the snow melts.

Davis stated that a ground crew will be necessary in the spring. CMP will not leave a “picket fence”. Slash law requires 3” in diameter and less to be removed/chipped. 3” and large in diameter is left behind. A pulp truck can be arranged.

Gerry stated that the work done on Whitney & Ducktrap Road “best job” ever. He hopes that kind of work could be done throughout town.

Brown asked if this area was checked for call backs (it hasn’t been). Brown asked about additional “gray areas” such as tree cable in village area along Route 1 and asked about “neighborhoods”.

Davis stated that in woodlot or wooded areas CMP did not see any gray areas. Mature solid trees such as oak/sugar maples can stay. Pole wood, fir, pine, birch should be cut. For mature white pine and the like more flexibility on shelf. In rural areas remove conifers, top in dooryards. They try not to top hardwoods due to the responding.

Brown indicated that along Rt. 173 not much regrowth with the hardwoods since 2001 trimming. Brown asked if old cut can be a marker for new cut. Davis stated that within the specifications it can be.

Plasse stated that communication is key. Parts of Whitney Road hand cut. Gerry stated that crew is polite and helpful. Elmer good to work with.

Davis stated that ABC has 5 year contract in Rockland/Belfast area.

McLaughlin stated that Board has taken some heat for CMP hiring an outside firm to trim trees. Davis stated that the project was bid nationally. Maine firms had every opportunity. PUC being price driven for rates.

Spiegel stated that on Ducktrap Road capable species under wires would be ground cut. Full cut necessary in wood lot areas. Davis asked that people be cognizant of work zone and safety rules.

Gerry asked that stumps not be left behind, communication be improved and to make sure that Kris Spiegel understands. Spiegel stated that message was received “loud and clear”.

McLaughlin state that it seemed Lincolnville was being treated differently. Davis stated that this was not the case. The same specifications exist for all trimming areas.

Gerry asked if the Northport area was done right. Davis said no, MDOT and others want more work done. Gerry asked about some shelved areas in Northport. Dais stated that more will be taken down.

Robinson stated that price per mile given, ABC does trimming, CMP audits and then ABC goes back if necessary. Spiegel added that process is to cut, inspect and re-work as required.

Davis offered that money to complete Lincolnville work required by PUC in rate case. "Old" funding to do just what absolutely necessary was no longer in place. Better reliability expected, pressure not there in the past. Some maintenance neglected but history now changes that. Blinking lights caused by momentary dip and outages experienced by electronic equipment not longer meeting customer expectations.

Davis shared map of outages and photos of tree challenges.

Spiegel offered work plan of 800 D-1 and its 1672 spans. Elmer outlined ABC next phase of work. Very little trim anticipated at Carver's Corner. ABC decides work plan and informs CMP. Spiegel checks log at HQ.

Davis to have Spiegel and Elmer prepare layout of order. Robinson offered that work is typically done systematically point "A" to point "B" without jumping around. Davis offered that exception is weather or safety concerns.

Gerry asked how often Spiegel checking work. Spiegel offered that daily contact with on site about twice per week. For re-work he tries not to be too far behind.

Gerry asked what happens if Brown and Spiegel can not agree. Davis stated "I'll get involved."

Robinson asked what Will's role is. Brown answered that State Statute outlines public shade trees and Conservation Commission role. Spiegel stated that Bianchi situation not indicative of our (CMP'S) work.

Davis stated that a meeting to look over Whitney and Ducktrap Road would be a good particularly any call back area.

Davis to have a map dropped off by Spiegel or Elmer next week to Town Office with planed flow of work.

Gerry thanked all for coming.

## **2. Adjourn:**

**Motion** by McLaughlin, second by Plausse to adjourn. **Vote 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Kinney  
Town Clerk