

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Via Remote Access**

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2021 meeting
3. Discussion re historic areas of Land Use Plan: J. Triana
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties – including invasive species update
5. Other land items
6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

**In accordance with the Governor Lamont's, Executive Order No. 7B for the Protection of Public Health and Safety during COVID-19 Pandemic and Response, the public meeting will be held remotely. Members of the public may attend the meeting via conference call, videoconference or other technology. For information on attending the meeting via remote access, and to view meeting documents, please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/our-boards/board-meetings-minutes?year=2021&category=1435&meetype=&page=>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515.

Topic: RPB Land Use Committee Meeting

Time: Feb 10, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (*via conference call*)

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 813 2549 5245

Passcode: 238790

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kexZj1Erlb>

SAFETY MOMENT

FEBRUARY – AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Did you know that cardiovascular diseases claim more lives each year than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined?

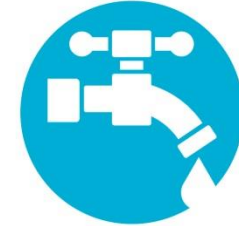
Between 2013 and 2016, 121.5 million American adults had some form of cardiovascular disease.

Approximately every 40 seconds, someone will have a heart attack or stroke.

Heart disease, stroke and cardiovascular disease risk factors:

Smoking	<i>Tobacco was one of the top 3 leading risk factors</i>
Physical Inactivity	In 2016, 26.9% of adults did not engage in physical activity
Poor Nutrition	Small improvements in nutrition from 2003-2012
Overweight/Obesity	Between 1980 and 2018 increased from 28.8% to 36.9%
Cholesterol	2013-2016 adults had high levels of bad cholesterol – 30.3%
Diabetes	2013-2016 9.8% of adults were diagnosed with diabetes
High Blood Pressure	2013-2016, 46% of adults had hypertension

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Regional Water Authority



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It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

Minutes of January 13, 2021 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young
Authority: K. Curseaden
Management: T. Norris and J. Triana
RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Levine, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its December 9, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided a review of the 5th Anniversary of the Land Use Plan. He discussed the historical background and timeline of events leading up to the development of the Land Use Plan (“Plan” or “LUP”) beginning in 1977, with the requirements of the Enabling Legislation, up to the last amendment in 2016. He reviewed the current Plan, which included:

- Overview
- System Plans
- Water System Land
- Recreation and Education
- Natural Resources
- Non-water and Water System Land
- Philosophy
- Acquired land

Mr. Triana reported that have been six amendments to the plan since 2016, which will be included in the next LUP amendment.

Discussion took place regarding requirements for filing and public information.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – J. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
December 31, 2020	81	85	72	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
December 2020	4.25	7.16	4.11
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 12/31/20)	25.10	31.07	27.10

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- [nothing to report]

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Re-executed the agreement and easement for the DePodesta property grant.

Hamden, Olin property option – Held conference call with Murtha staff regarding this matter.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Received reval notice update and forwarded it to new property owner.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Discussed issue of condemnation with our attorneys. They will contact the town attorney.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **95% complete**
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – **85% complete.**
- **Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded Will likely start in February.**
- **Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) - Contract not awarded yet. Out to bid.**
 - Met with Environmental Planning staff and worked on the plan for the pollinator garden at 90 Sargent Drive.
 - Met with several contractors for hazard tree work.
 - Cut Cedar trees in the field on Sperry Road in Woodbridge.

Recreation

- Discussed mountain bike possibilities with Madison staff.
- Discussed possible trail between Hammonasset and Genesee areas with Madison staff.
- Held Christmas tree cutting days at Lake Gaillard. Harvested 91 trees.
- Reviewed possible fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- Cleared downed trees from trails south of Lake Bethany.

	December		November	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Permit Holders	6,016	3,761	5,879	3,785

Special Activity Permits

- New Haven Bird Club (Chris Loscalzo) - Annual Christmas Bird Count survey - Saltonstall, Whitney, Wepawaug, Maltby, Dawson, Glen, Chamberlain, Watrous – (12/19/2020).
- Christopher Loscalzo (at request of CTDEEP) - Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Lakes Saltonstall and Gaillard – (1/9/2021).
- Jon Petersen – NEMBA - Walking the land to layout new trails, Genesee Recreation Area (12/8/20-12/8/21)

- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick T. Leahy) – Maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes on 7 sites – Downes Road, Bethany, adjacent to Lake Bethany property and field below Lake Dawson dam, Woodbridge, farm field on Sperry Road and Lake Chamberlain below the dam, Lake Watrous and other properties – 1/1/21–12/31/21.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed a fields with two potential farmers.
 - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Met with abutter. Coordinated surveyor to set two pins to verify the property line.
 - Guilford, Wilbur’s Lane (GU 3) – Guilford Land Trust members contacted the abutter to address encroachment.
 - North Haven, Old Maple Ave. (NO 5) – Contacted by new property owner who stated he gave previous property owner two months to remove items.
 - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Found encroachment of abutter using property by field.
 - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 18) – Found encroachment where abutter created ditch over property line.
- Invasive plants – Documented invasive populations in Seymour. Gave a talk regarding the use of drones to monitor populations of invasive species, specifically the water chestnut harvest to Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~0.25 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.0 acres

- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys were distributed. Some have been returned.
- Farm River-EH dredging – Helped Operations prepare for dredging operation of the impoundment.
- Lake Whitney dam work – Continued to assist CP&D with plans to access the east side of the dam through East Rock Park. Received letter of estimated value of the temporary and permanent easements in East Rock Park. Forwarded that to CP&D.
- Lake Dawson dam work – Assisted CP&D with planning for work on the Lake Dawson spillway.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on January 21, 2021.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:14 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman

NOTE

PRESENTATION FOR ITEM #3 ON AGENDA, *DISCUSSION RE HISTORIC AREAS OF LAND USE PLAN*, IS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE FILE.

THE PRESENTATION WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY REQUEST PAPER COPIES BY EMAILING jslubowski@rwater.com OR CALL 203-401-2515

February 10, 2021
Land Use Committee Meeting

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
January 31, 2021	85	88	77	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2021	1.23	1.97	3.59
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 1/31/21)	26.33	33.04	30.69

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- [nothing to report]

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Received the check for the DePodesta property. Posted required OSWLA signs at both the properties.

Hamden, Olin property option – Corresponded with HLCT on this matter. Received letter from Save the Sound and other organizations requesting a meeting about this matter.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Hamden town attorneys agreed that condemnation would be the way to go. Said it could take months. Requested to bifurcate the disposition applications.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
 - North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **Complete**
 - Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
 - Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet
 - Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – **Complete.**
 - Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded. Will likely start in February.
 - Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **Awarded contract. Likely start this winter.**
- Gave out two new maple tapping permits.
 - Met with Jeff Ward (Chief Scientist, CAES) to discuss new study involving white oak saplings in Bethany.
 - Documented encroachments on several parcels.
 - Removed cedar trees from Sperry Road field for licensee & for future boundary posts.

Recreation

- Discussed mountain bike possibilities with people from Madison at Genesee.
- Held bird walk at Lake Bethany with 5 people.
- Reviewed possible fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain with environmental consultant.
- Checked part of Quinnipiac Trail with CFPA staff about drainage improvements.

- Submitted annual report to DPH.
- Posted notice of openings for recreation staff and started receiving and reviewing applications.
- Discussed possible relocation of Mattabeset Trail onto RWA property south of Poole Rd. in Madison.

	January		December	
	2021	2020	2020	2019
Permit Holders	6,129	3,762	6,016	3,761

Special Activity Permits

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Raymond Putnam)-walk the unnamed tributary to Farm River, hand excavate 20-inch test pits, fill after recording data. Take photos of abutting property. (Working on gaining access to abutting property; investigating possible wetland violations), 1739, 1744 and 1778 Middletown Avenue, North Branford, (01/06/21-12/31/21)
- CONSOR Engineering (Michael Balboni) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; (1/26/21-2/23/21)-date of 2/9/21.
- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2021 - 3/1/2022)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed two fields with potential farmers. Sent draft agreements to Potter for taking over three hayfields from Bozzuto. Approved request from Urbano to apply lime and fertilizer to the Sperry Rd. field.
 - North Branford, Sol’s Path field (NB 4) – Executed license agreement with couple to use field for Christmas trees.
 - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Surveyor found and set pins. Met with abutter. Sent draft agreement for them to review.
 - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Sent letter about one of the buildings in the easement and removing boat in pond. Offered license agreement for use of portion of field.
 - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 18) – Sent letter about ditch that crosses the property line.
 - Madison, Suffolk Dr. (MA 12) – Sent letter about fence over the line that was originally found in 2003.
- Invasive plants – Documented and treated invasive populations in Killingworth, North Branford, Hamden, Bethany and Woodbridge. This included using a contractor to mow about a half acre at one of the sediment detention ponds by Lake Whitney. Spoke to Chris Ozyck from Yale’s URI program about using them as contractors for hand pulling and cutting of invasives. Worked on grant from state regarding aquatic invasive plant management.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	29.70 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~26 acres

- Deer hunt – Final hunter surveys received. Submitted annual report to DPH. Renewal of permit submitted to DPH
- East Haven, 196 Beach Ave. – Murtha staff will initiate a title report for the area to understand our easements.

- Branford, Parish Farm Rd. – Contacted by Branford Engineering Dept. about possibility of easement for sanitary sewer extension to address issues with septic systems in the area.
- North Branford recreation dept. – Corresponded with NB Recreation staff and set date to lead walk for them.

Attachments

- January 2021 - Protecting Cheshire's Greenbelt - CLCC email
- January 27, 2021 - Judge Tosses Lawsuit; Move Allows Water Tower Project In Derby To Proceed – New Haven Independent
- January 27, 2021 - Connecticut Water Officials Proclaim The Drought Is Over – Patch.com
- February 2, 2021 - Scotch pine is Hamden's January Notable Tree – NH Register
- January 26, 2021 - Some In New England Unhappy With End Of Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine - WNPR

Upcoming Agenda Items

March 2021 –



CLCC email

Cheshire Land Trust - Regional Water Authority

Protecting Cheshire's Greenbelt

The town of Cheshire recently acquired 45-acres with over 3200 feet of frontage on the Mill River. The Regional Water Authority and Cheshire Land Trust (CLT) contributed to the acquisition and jointly hold a conservation easement on the property. The land provides an essential link to an important greenbelt corridor in town. Additional funds for the purchase came from the Audubon CT Wetland In Lieu Fee Program. "Acquiring the property for open space will help to protect the Mill River and promote efforts to improve the water quality of this section of the river. We are pleased and exceedingly grateful to all of those who made the acquisition possible," said CLT President Joy VanderLek.

Judge Tosses Lawsuit; Move Allows Water Tower Project In Derby To Proceed

by Eugene Driscoll | Jan 27, 2021 – New Haven Independent

DERBY — A judge dismissed a lawsuit brought by residents who sued the Derby Planning & Zoning Commission for approving the construction of a water tower near the intersection of Chatfield Street and Coon Hollow Road.

“In sum, the plaintiffs have failed to sustain their burden to prove that the commission acted improperly in approving the RWA site plan, or that there would be an impairment or destruction of the public trust in the natural resources under state (law),” according to a judgement Jan. 19 by Judge Marshall Berger, a land use judge in Hartford, where the case was heard.

The Regional Water Authority has been trying to find a location and build a water tower in west Derby for years.

It is needed because the lack of a water storage facility in the area hurts fire protection in west Derby.

When there is an increased demand for water — such as when firefighters are trying to extinguish a house fire — parts of Derby lose water pressure, according to statements from city officials and officials from the RWA.

The tower will also improve water service to Griffin Hospital, according to court documents.

After neighbors and local government under former Mayor Anthony Staffieri’s leadership opposed the construction of the water tank on “Telescope Mountain” off Summit Street, the city allowed the RWA to look in the woods near the entrance to the Derby High School/Derby Middle School campus.

The Dziekan administration, the Derby Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen and the RWA worked out a deal in 2018 in which the city leased city-owned land (about 2 acres) near the high school entrance in the area of Coon Hollow Road for \$1 a year for 99 years so RWA could build a 52-foot water tower capable of storing 1 million gallons of water.

RWA agreed to buy an acre of land owned by St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church next to the city’s 2 acres. The city wants to use the land to build a parking lot, which will eventually be given to the City of Derby. RWA also agreed to buy about 2 acres in east Derby and give it to the city so the city could fix a long-standing drainage issue. (Editor’s note: the preceding paragraph was rewritten to change several typographical mistakes in the copy)

The Derby Planning & Zoning Commission approved a site plan for the water tower in 2019. The site plan is the nuts and bolts review of the construction project, and whether it complies with local zoning.

A family living on Chatfield Street across from the proposed site, the Marinellis, filed a lawsuit, and were joined by resident Sharlene McEvoy, according to court documents. They argued the Derby P&Z Commission’s decision should have been overturned for several reasons, saying the tower was too tall to be allowed, the land in question could not be used for a water tower, and the environmental impact of the tower would be bad for the area.

The lawsuit was filed in July of 2019.

In a written decision Jan. 19, the judge found the Derby P&Z Commission’s review of the site-plan application was proper. The judge also noted the land was not deed restricted, and that Derby was free to use the land; in this case to bolster the city’s health and safety by allowing a utility company to fortify the public water system.

The judge also found the height rules did not apply to the RWA proposal.

Connecticut Water Officials Proclaim The Drought Is Over

Chris Dehnel, Patch Staff Posted Wed, Jan 27, 2021

CONNECTICUT — After experiencing "widespread drought conditions" across the state this summer and fall that prompted water conservation requests in several towns, Connecticut Water reported this week that, as of mid-January, all its reservoirs have "recovered."

The road back to full capacity was particularly remarkable because of increased water usage as folks remained home amid the coronavirus pandemic, utility officials said.

"While our water supply levels remained adequate for customer needs in 2020, residential water usage last year was considerably higher due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It took some of our reservoirs the full balance of last year and into the early days of 2021 to reach full capacity," Connecticut Water Vice President of Service Delivery Craig Patla said. "We relied heavily on December's rain and snow to recover from 40 percent higher usage as well as the kinds of drought conditions we had not seen since 2016."

At the peak of the drought reservoir levels across the state were at about 60 to 65 percent of capacity, utility officials said..

Connecticut Water maintains 18 "surface water supplies" and more than 200 groundwater wells in the 60 water systems it operates throughout the state.

Utility officials said they were prepared via "considerable investment" in water supplies, treatment, and interconnections "to provide operational flexibility to support customer needs during periods of drought or high demands," officials said.

Many systems received conservation requests this summer and fall to extend the available water supply to serve the needs of the community.

"While we are thankful for the change in weather conditions, we're also grateful to the commitment of our customers to cut unnecessary water usage, such as lawn watering, so that we were able to maintain enough volumes in our systems to serve our communities," Patla said.

While the state has largely recovered from the impacts of the drought, water conservation is recommended all year round.

Connecticut Water provides water service to nearly 350,000 people in 60 Connecticut communities and wastewater service to 10,000 people in Southbury, Connecticut.

The towns served are Ashford, Avon, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bolton, Brooklyn, Burlington, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Deep River, Durham, East Granby, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Essex, Farmington, Griswold, Guilford, Haddam, Hebron, Killingly, Killingworth, Lebanon, Madison, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Oxford, Plainfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southbury, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Thomaston, Thompson, Tolland, Vernon, Voluntown, Waterbury, Westbrook, Willington, Windsor Locks and Woodstock.

Scotch pine is Hamden's January Notable Tree

Feb. 2, 2021 - NHR

The Hamden Tree Commission is pleased to name this Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) as the Hamden Notable Tree for the month of January.

Contributed photo

HAMDEN — The Hamden Tree Commission named this Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) as the Hamden Notable Tree for the month of January. The tree is located on Regional Water Authority property in the Spring Glen neighborhood. It is an evergreen tree, native to Europe and the western part of Asia. It is the only variety of pine native to the British Islands, hence its name, according to the commission.

Young Scotch pines are pyramidal in shape with short, spreading branches. As they age, the lower branches die off and the trunk becomes more visible. Mature trees have bare, curved trunks with an umbrella-like branch formation at the top. The Scotch pine is easily recognized by its curvy trunk and distinctive orange bark on its upper trunk and branches. It has short blue-green needles and small cones.

Scotch pine was the United States' most popular Christmas tree from 1950 to the 1980s, but has since been replaced by spruces and firs. In many parts of the country, central states in particular, the Scotch pine remains a very popular Christmas tree.

To nominate a tree, send its location and a few sentences describing the tree to: help@hamden.com. Include a name, address, email, and phone number as well, or mail the nomination to the Hamden Tree Commission care of the Mayor's Office, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

Some In New England Unhappy With End Of Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine

By Alden Bourne • Jan 26, 2021 – WNPR

The U.S. government has lifted a quarantine on an invasive insect, the emerald ash borer, that's killed many trees in Massachusetts and Connecticut. But critics of the change have been more vocal outside those states.

The emerald ash borer was first discovered in the U.S. in 2002 in Michigan. The federal government soon instituted a quarantine there on ash products, which restricted their movement unless the wood had been treated first.

The quarantine zone spread as the bug infested more states — and with good reason. The insect can kill ash trees within three to five years, according to Tawny Simisky, an entomologist at UMass Amherst.

"Adults will lay their eggs on the bark, and those eggs will hatch, and the larvae will bore beneath the bark and feed in the nutrient rich layer," she said. "And so it's that feeding that causes tunneling — which will effectively girdle the ash trees, that leads to their mortality."

In 2012, the emerald ash borer was found in the Berkshires and in Connecticut near Waterbury. It had spread to 31 states by 2018, including all of New England.

That's when the federal government proposed eliminating the quarantine, which officially ended a couple of weeks ago.

The USDA says the quarantine strategy has been ineffective, and it wants to focus its resources on deploying a natural enemy to kill the ash borer: parasitic wasps.

Simisky explained the approach.

"The wasps essentially lay their eggs, either in or on emerald ash borer eggs or larvae," she said. "And the wasp eggs will hatch, and then the young wasps will kill the emerald ash borer through their own development."

Dave Orwig, who is an ecologist for the Harvard Forest in western Worcester County, said the ash borer has been found nearby, but not in the university's research forest. Still, he said, he thinks the government's decision to lift the ban makes sense in a place like Massachusetts.

"It's throughout the state, so the quarantine is effectively not useful right now," Orwig said. "If I'm in a state like Maine that only has infested ash that we know of in the southern part and the northern part, you'd want to try to continue to slow the spread of those materials."

And in fact, the Maine Forest Service lodged a strong protest against the lifting of the quarantine. The agency wrote a letter to the USDA saying the timing could not be worse (PDF), and that the federal government was throwing in the towel.

Tom Doak is the former director of the service, and now leads the Maine Woodland Owners association.

"I understand the concern is that spending a lot of time and effort on something that ultimately will not prevent the spread — because these insects are mobile, and they fly well," Doak said. "And so I think everybody understands they will spread. But buying that time could be absolutely critical."

In early January, Maine issued an emergency order creating a state quarantine on the importation of ash wood, which basically replicates the restrictions of the federal one.

All New England states have policies that either prohibit or discourage out-of-state firewood.

So even though the federal quarantine is over, Simisky, the UMass entomologist, said people still need to do their part.

"This could mean not bringing firewood from Massachusetts with you when you go, in better days, to Maine to camp," she said. "So I think keeping that sort of stuff local, and limiting the spread of potentially infested ash trees — that's still very important."

The ash borer probably can't be stopped, but between campers doing the right thing and the wasps doing their part, perhaps America's ash trees have a fighting chance.