



RESOLUTION 20-364

Resolution To Bring Awareness To The Emerald Ash Borer Epidemic's Impending Destructive Impact On The Sourland Regions Native Ashe Trees And The Tree Canopy Of The Sourland Mountain

WHEREAS, the Sourland Mountain Preserved consisting of approximately 4,000 acres and is located in neighboring Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive species of beetle, known for its metallic green color, which feeds on, and ultimately destroys, all species of North American ash trees; and

WHEREAS, the Princeton Environmental Commission recommended bringing this Resolution to Princeton Council at their regular meeting on October 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Princeton Shade Tree Commission recommended bringing this Resolution to Princeton Council at their regular meeting on October 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Forest Service has designated the Sourland Mountain region as location where the insect has been present since 2014; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Forest Inventory has estimated that the Sourland region is host to over 1 million ash trees (over 20% of the forest) which will be killed by the EAB; and

WHEREAS, EAB larvae feed under the bark of ash trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients, such that a tree can die in one to three years after the first symptoms of infestation appear; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of an EAB infestation in an ash tree include leaf loss, dying branches, D-shaped, pencil-sized holes from where adult beetles exit the tree; blanding patches of bark and stripping of bark by woodpeckers, who feed on the larvae; and

WHEREAS, if an ash tree is less than 20% infected, chemical injection treatments applied by a homeowner or a licensed professional arborist are effective in combating the infestation; and

WHEREAS, the spring of 2021 may be the last opportunity to have ash trees successfully treated; and

WHEREAS, a severely infected tree it can be removed responsibly or can be left to die naturally, if in an open area where its falling will not harm a person or property; and

WHEREAS, the earlier an infested tree is proactively removed, the safer for the homeowner and the lower the cost; and

WHEREAS, EAB infestation quickly weakens a tree, making it very brittle, leading to sudden cracking and shattering, and after only one or two years of mortality, an EAB infested ash tree can snap in half unexpectedly and dangerously; and

WHEREAS, infected ash wood should be chipped into pieces no larger than one inch to destroy the EAB's ability to live; and

WHEREAS, whenever an ash tree is removed, another native tree of a non-ash variety should be planted; and

WHEREAS, the Sourland Conservancy is a local nonprofit organization working with municipalities and environmental groups to educate the public about this problem in the Sourland Mountain region, to raise awareness and funds and engage volunteers to replace ash trees with alternative native trees and protect them from foraging deer, by sharing useful information on their website, offering educational webinars, and hosting a virtual Save the Sourlands Solo Fest on October 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, it is important to bring awareness of the impending Emerald Ash Borer devastation in the Sourlands, and provide the citizens of the tri-County area leadership, and elected officials with the information to best address the fiscal, safety, and environmental impacts of this epidemic.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY PRINCETON COUNCIL, that

Section 1. The Governing Body hereby formally recognizes the detrimental impact of the Emerald Ash Borer to ash trees in the Sourland Mountain region and encourages the public to seek out information on management options, which include planting native vegetation to provide food and shelter for pollinators, migratory birds, fish, and other animals.

Section 2. The Governing Body agrees to work in partnership with other municipalities, governmental agencies, environmental organizations, and private citizens to mitigate the damage of the EAB through such means as sponsoring education programs, tree plantings, monitoring of public properties, protection of existing native tree stands and promoting public awareness.

| Councilperson | Absent | Present | 1 st | 2 nd | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Disqualified |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|--------------|
| Mr. Cohen | | X | | | X | | | |
| Ms. Fraga | | X | | | X | | | |
| Ms. Niedergang | | X | X | | X | | | |
| Ms. Pirone Lambros | | X | | X | X | | | |
| Ms. Sacks | | X | | | X | | | |
| Mr. Williamson | | X | | | X | | | |
| Mayor Lempert | | X | | | | | | |

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held November 9, 2020.



Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk