**Draft Press Release for Local EAB Public Meeting and Ash Tree Awareness**

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Vermont and [town name] is preparing for its arrival. Once infested, EAB will kill an ash tree within five years. We estimate that [town] has approximately [x] ash trees on our green, along our roadways, and on town property. OR [Town] town green alone has xx ash trees, with dozens more along road sides and in yards. The unfortunate reality is that EAB will kill the majority of our ash trees and [town] will need to prepare a plan and a budget to safely and effectively deal with the impacts from EAB on public trees.

To prepare [town] for an EAB infestation, the [selectboard, council, etc] is:

* Conducting an inventory of all the ash trees on town property
* Preparing a budget for the removal of ash trees and planting of new trees
* Considering insecticide treatments
* Planning an Ash Tree Awareness week for residents, during which tags will be available (or be posted on ash trees) to promote an understanding of the impact that EAB could have locally.

Residents are invited to attend an information session on EAB:

* [Date]
* [Time]
* [Place]

At this session attendees will learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of EAB and options for the ash trees on their property. We will also discuss the town’s management strategies and anticipated costs related to EAB.

EAB is primarily spread by hitching a ride on firewood. Slow the spread by never moving untreated firewood more than 50 miles from where it was cut. Infested ash firewood should not be moved from its site. It is against the law to move untreated firewood into the state of Vermont.

For more information on EAB, visit [www.VTinvasives.org](http://www.VTinvasives.org).