

Mark R. Dillenbeck  
104 Oak Hill Road  
Charlotte, VT 05445

October 18, 2016

Selectboard Members  
Town of Charlotte

Dear Lane, Fritz, Matt, Carrie, and Jacob:

I am writing to request that the Selectboard consider my application to assume the role of Tree Warden, replacing Larry Hamilton.

Larry's passing gives us some big shoes to fill and nobody is going to truly and fully replace Larry in this role. I can, however, offer take on the Tree Warden duties in good faith and to the best of my ability. To this end I have some advantages.

I've been working with Larry in my capacity his Deputy Tree Warden since 2011 and am familiar with all aspects of the work. We spent time in the field together, sighting locations for tree plantings, marking hazard trees for removal, conferring with Green Mountain Power representatives regarding placement of utility poles, and talking with land owners. My beat as Deputy Tree Warden has been to work with leaseholders on Thompson's Point to authorize or disallow tree removals, plus whatever additional work Larry needed help with.

Thanks to the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program, I've been trained as a First Detector to recognize and report major forest pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Recently I completed a Tree Steward workshop through the same agency.

I am overseeing two tree related initiatives at the moment: ash tree inventory and implementing a federal grant for disease resistant elm tree planting in the Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge. Once the ash tree inventory is completed, and with the Selectboard's blessing, I hope to develop preparedness plan for the expected onset of the Emerald Ash Borer. I currently serve as a member of the Parks Committee.

I have a master's degree in forestry and significant field experience in that area. Most of my practical knowledge, however, has come from what I've learned talking to arborists, loggers, tree-huggers and the like as well as what I've been able to learn on my own.

I proudly consider myself to be a conservationist, but I also like electricity, firewood, clear roads, and intact camps. That means sometimes trees have to come down and I'm not overly sentimental about that.

I'm a busy person. I dedicate about 50 hours per week running my small company. This is a limitation to my candidacy for the Tree Warden position. I've given this issue considerable thought and the solution is going to be to recruit additional people to help out. The other current Deputy Tree Warden, Sue Smith, has offered to stay on in that role and is prepared to take on additional duties making her, in effect, a co-Tree Warden. Other people can be recruited to help out as Tree Stewards, responsible for helping maintain town planted trees, assisting with new plantings, watching for possible violations of tree cutting rules, writing articles for the Charlotte News, etc. Larry (ever thoughtful) left us with a list of possible people to perform these duties and Sue and I have discussed the subject as well. We've already contacted two people who have tentatively agreed to help with tree duties.

A positive aspect of being my own boss is that I make my own hours. So while my business occupies a considerable amount of time, I often have flexibility to take time during the work day to attend to other matters, such as town tree work.

Thank you for considering my application.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Dillenbeck", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mark Dillenbeck  
Deputy Tree Warden  
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