

Hunter's Ridge Homeowners' Association

Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation

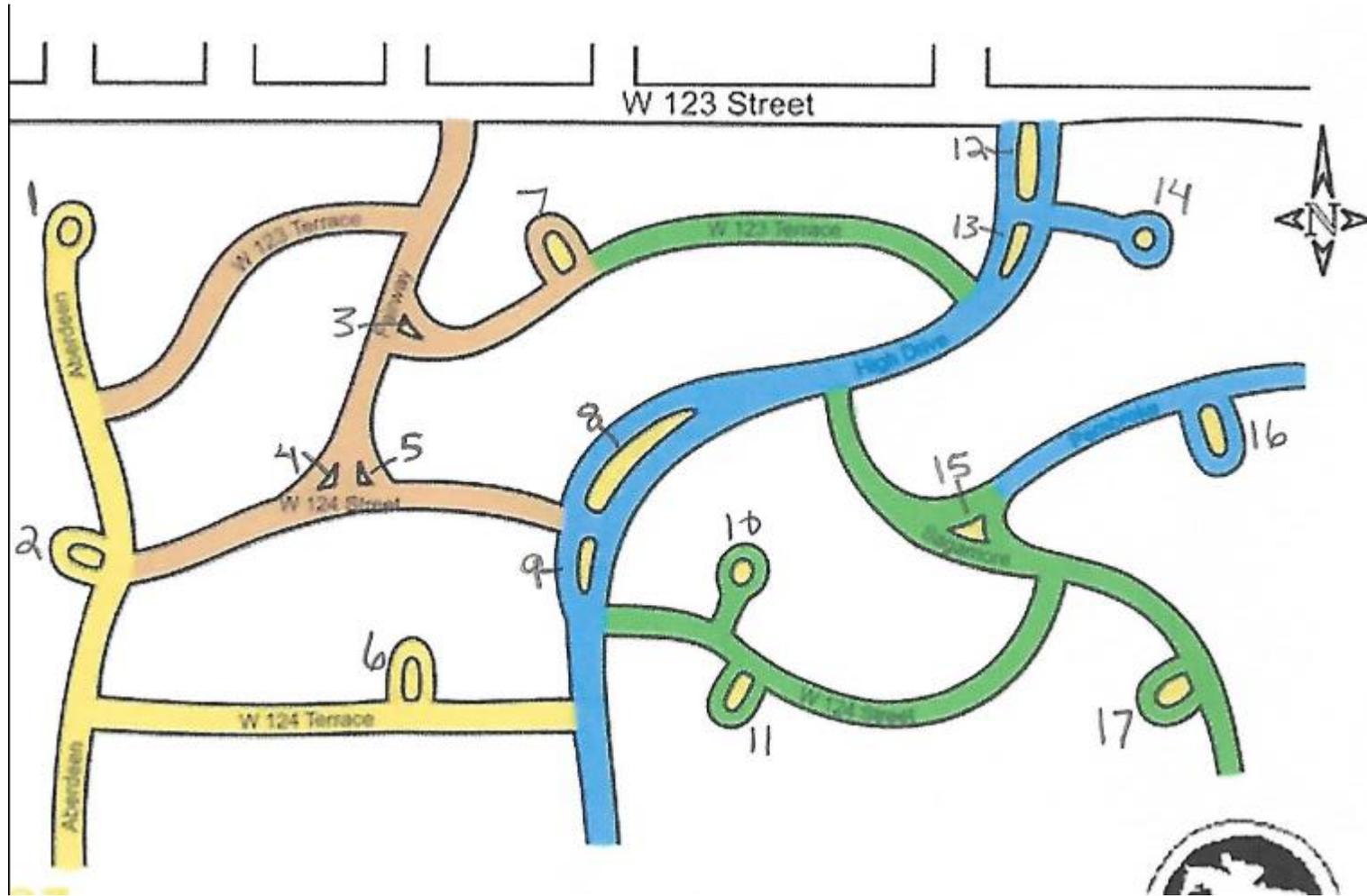
What we've done and what we've learned

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Hunter's Ridge HOA

- 170 homes developed in the early to mid 1980's by Saul Ellis
- 377 ash trees comprise approximately 90% of our street trees



February 2015, Sustainability Summit

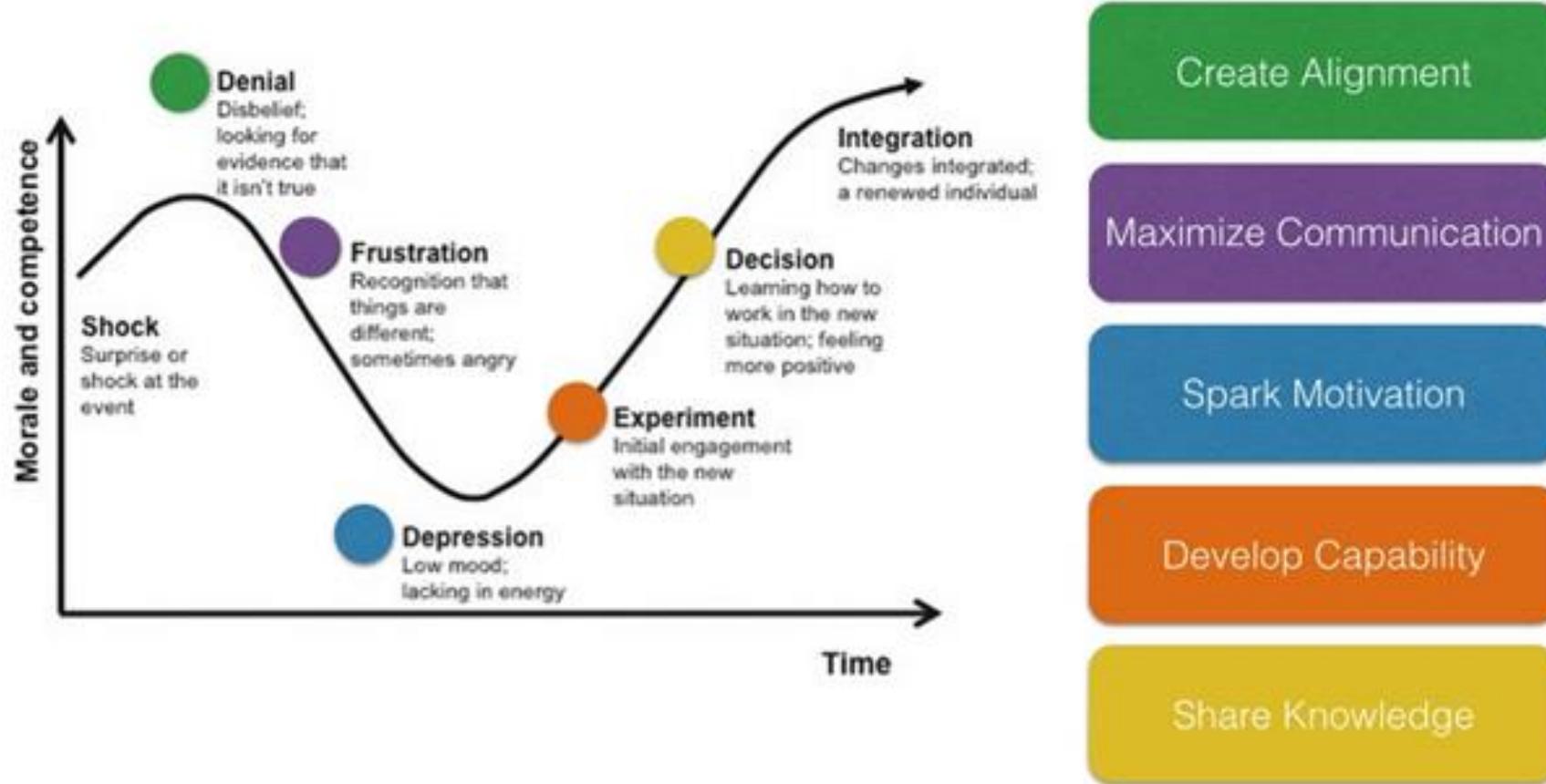
- I spoke with other HOA leadership and the city's team about how the emerald ash borer was being addressed. In particular, Bruce North and Brian Anderson.
- Our HOA had not taken any action and had no plans to take any action.

Denial is completely natural

A street in suburban Toledo, OH. The images are stark and the talk about what to do can be overwhelming.



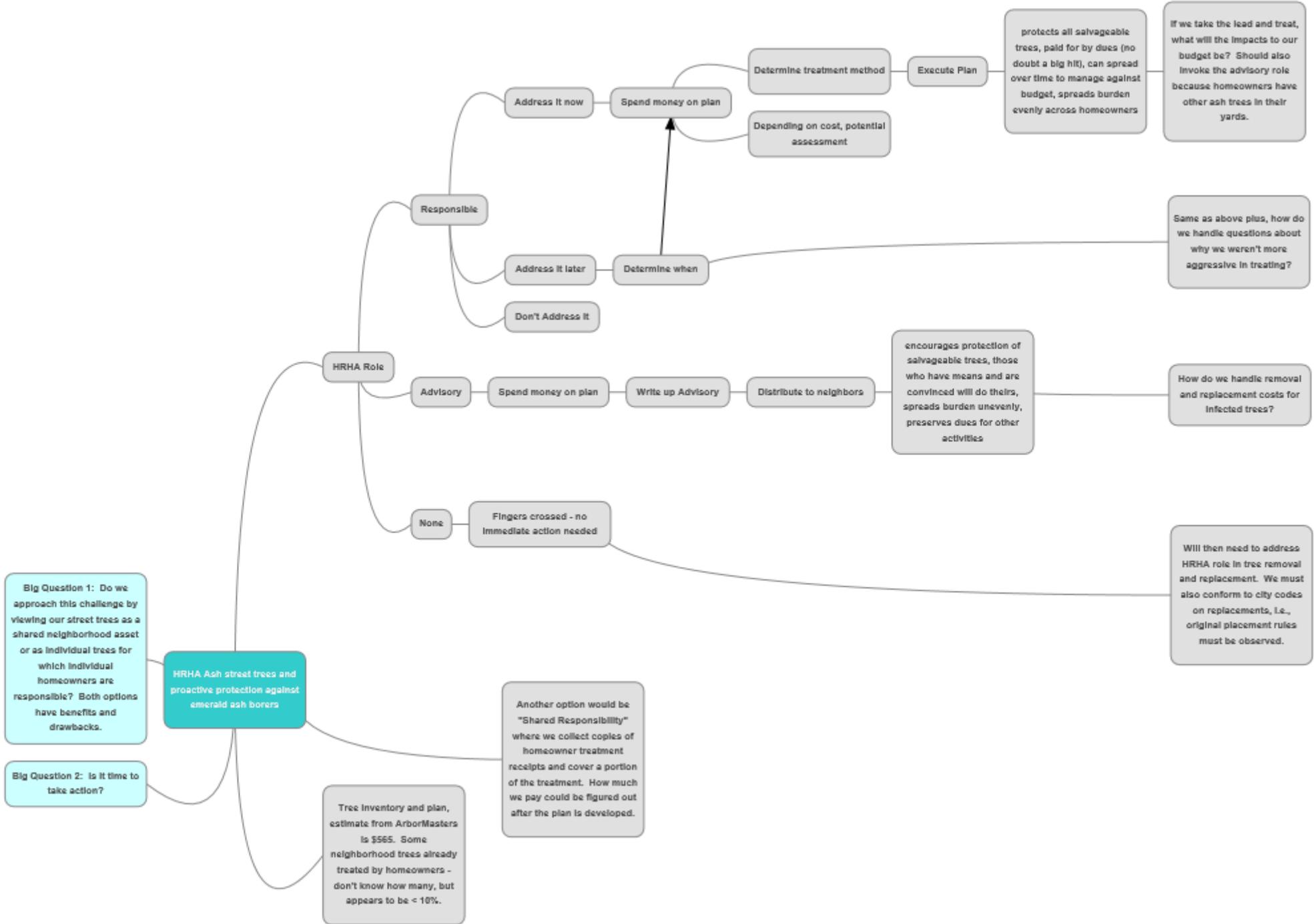
The Kübler-Ross change curve



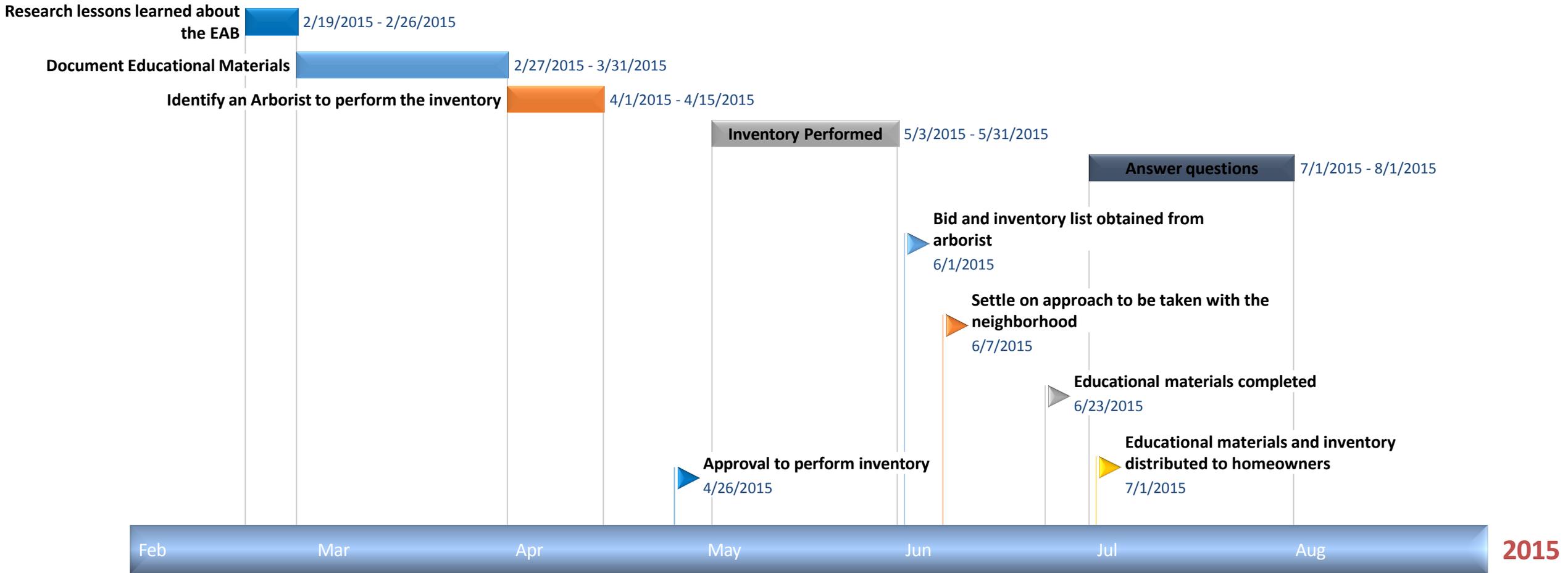
Someone who decides to lead on this for the HOA will need to nudge your HOA out of denial and onto the upward arc of the curve. Conversations with and lessons from the people who are taking action already can illuminate the path forward.

What approach can you take?

- Understand who is responsible for the street trees. According to your by-laws, is it individual homeowners or the HOA?
- If it's the responsibility of the homeowners, does the board of your HOA have an appetite for doing an inventory and taking charge of the street trees on the neighborhood's behalf? Ours did not.
- You will have to talk with your board, and educate them. You will need to plan for that conversation. Here's what we used for discussion. Our board chose the "Advisory" role.



Timeline for Hunter's Ridge



Spring 2016. Success?

- Information from the 2 primary providers of treatment indicates we have 25% of our homeowners engaged for treatment.
- The fate of the other 75% of our ash trees is not clear. Are homeowners ignoring the issue or planning to do this spring? If your HOA has direct responsibility for the street trees, you have much more control to execute the plan.
- I am currently preparing a survey to ask questions intended to collect data and spark action to get more trees mitigated.
- It has not been easy, but what we've done has definitely impacted treatment rates. I take pride in the 25%. Every tree matters.
- We will absolutely NOT execute a perfect plan. But we will absolutely do better than we would without a plan.