

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

In the year 2004, the members of the Highway Department, with assistance from a local tree service, removed 75 trees that were dead, dying, diseased or storm damaged. Below, I have listed the streets where trees were taken down and cleaned up by the Highway Department. As you can see, there were no trees felled by a professional tree service this past year. That is not due to the lack of trees beyond our capability that are in need of removal, but rather the lack of funds to hire a professional tree service to do the work. A list of trees in need of removal by a tree service is being compiled for future funding. Continued maintenance of the trees within the town helps reduce our exposure to personal injury, power outages and in general improves the overall appearance of the town. The trees removed were as follows:

<u>Location Service</u>	<u>Completed by Highway Department</u>	<u>Assisted by Tree</u>
Allen Street	10	
Ames Road	4	
Bayberry	1	
Burleigh Road	1	
East Longmeadow Road	2	
Hickory Lane	1	
Glendale Road	10	
Mill Road	5	
North Road	4	
Scantic Rd.	1	
Sessions Drive	1	
Somers Road	1	
South Road	1	
Springhouse Road	1	
St. Germain	1	
Stony Hill Road	1	
Wilbraham Rd.	30	
Total Removals	75	0

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Several stumps were in need of grinding, but again no money was allotted for this service and a list of stump locations is being compiled.

If anyone has any questions regarding a town tree or would like to report a tree that they feel is in poor condition, please feel free to contact me at the Highway Department office (566-8842).

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Tree Warden

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In the year 2004, the Highway Department again completed many maintenance projects such as street sweeping, patching, cleaning ditches, and trimming roads of brush, along with the repair and maintenance of our equipment. Some smaller projects were done as well, with local funds. They are listed later in this report. Normally, larger projects are funded with Chapter 90 Agreements through the Massachusetts Highway Department. However, this year the state did not release our local aid until it was too late in the season to be used on road construction. This financial aid will be used in 2005. Fortunately, there was a considerable amount of work that the department was able to perform associated with the Green Meadows School renovations. A breakdown of the projects we completed at the school is as follows:

We dug out and graveled in an area in the rear of the school to provide for the paving of a sidewalk. Gravel material along the side of the school was removed and loam was placed so grass could be planted. We also placed material in preparation for final loaming and seeding, behind the school. This raised the entire area about three feet. Surplus fill was moved from the sides of the school, as well as from the stockpile at the transfer station, for use in this area. This provided for a level surface area for the children to play on. All ten septic and electrical structures behind the school were raised, set to grade, and cemented in place. Wood chips were hauled from a stockpile at the transfer station to the area of the waterline and leveled. This provided an additional 2-feet of cover along the waterline to prevent the possibility of freezing. We connected drainage to an existing basin in the driveway of the school and extended a drain line to the west side of the front parking lot, where we built a catch basin to correct a water problem. We installed a 6-inch perforated pipe with stone (sub-drainage) northerly along the driveway to intercept all ground water. A catch basin and 36 feet of pipe were installed in front of the school. Lastly, a grove of trees was cleaned out and trimmed up, before the ground was mulched to improve appearance and visibility.

A variety of other projects were addressed this past year as well. A drainage line was installed on Echo Valley Dr. to prevent icing there in the winter. Catch basins that collapsed were re-built on Scantic Road, Wilbraham Road, Main Street and South Road. A new basin with drainage was built on Chapin Road. Drainage was both repaired and installed on South Road, near the pipeline, to correct an icing problem there. An existing drain line was extended on Colony Drive to restore its ability to function properly. Main Street was shimmed from Somers Road east, to improve the road surface and allow water to drain into basins properly. All traffic markings in town were re-painted. We also painted markings to locate catch basins in minor flooding or heavy snow events. The cul-de-sac at the end of Colony Drive was modified to improve plowing operations. A new loading ramp was constructed at the highway department to be used in loading sanders this winter.

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As you may recall, the issue of catch basin cleaning was finally resolved. All the basins in town were completely cleaned and the material was hauled to Springfield for disposal. This was allowed under a permit issued by DEP. The basin cleaning program has become very expensive, but is essential for environmental protection and compliance.

There were a total of 18 winter storms in 2004. As always, the committed members of the Highway Department worked long hours to clear the roads and make them safe for traffic. The members of the Highway Department are; Patrick Markham, Robert Richards, Albert Rosati, Matthew Frederick and John Ouellette. Relief drivers who often assist us include: Harold House, Ron Neilsen and Jason Walbridge. I would like to thank them all for their service, support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Dana S. Pixley
Highway Superintendent