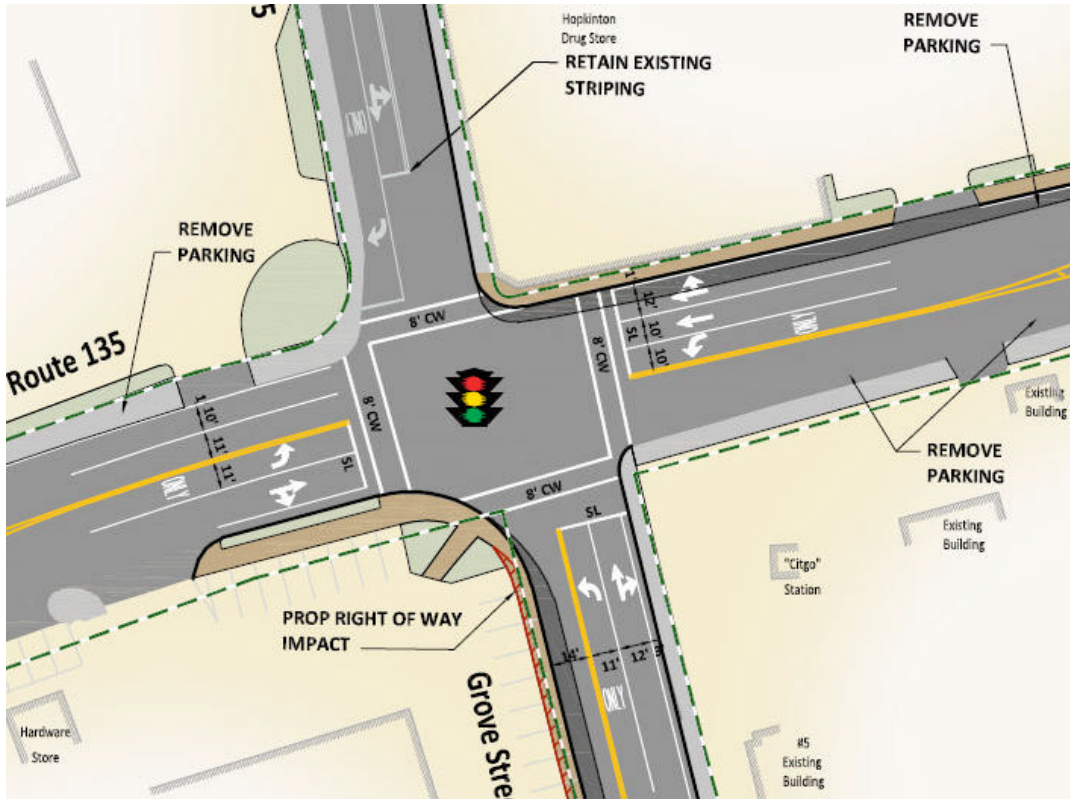




Hopkinton Planning – The downtown intersection of 85 and 135 is having three sets of plans made for it.



(1) Early this year, the initial construction on that intersection will see modern signals that sense traffic levels and respond to them installed.

(2) Over the next multiple *years* a more ambitious project, the intersection re-design shown in the picture, is being considered as part of the Legacy Farms changes. Note the loss of parking spaces from Main St to accommodate the additional lanes.

(3) They're also considering taking 22 more parking spaces

from Colella's and shifting Grove St over to line the intersection up.

Hotel District – we got back a report on the doings with the hotel district proposed for three areas of Western Hopkinton, including Lumber St and Elmwood Park. Our correspondent raised a bunch of potential issues:

- Neither Elm St nor Lumber St are equipped to take on more traffic
- Getting off of 495 heading into town and merging onto West Main is already a challenge
- Bright lights/busy exit will attract people, but additional traffic also brings additional crime. "What makes Hopkinton a great place is that nobody thinks anything is going on here. Put up a ton of lights near 495, and signage, and we've blown what makes Hopkinton a great place to live."
- Hopkinton is already buying water from Westboro. And we're paying for sewage sent to Westboro as well. Adding hotels is going to increase both those charges.
- How many stories would the hotel(s) be allowed?

The obvious concern here is not about adding a hotel somewhere. It is what follows afterwards that makes this worrisome. If a traveler comes in at 10:00 PM; where are they to eat? If a traveler is on limited expense account; they'll want cheap breakfast and dinner, does that mean McDonald's, Wendy's, or Burger King? Does it mean Chili's and Olive Garden? If Fast Food is a possibility, can K-Mart be far behind? It is a question of the character of the town. A miracle mile on West Main may help the tax base, but it wrecks what we have today. See exit 17 in Franklin, exit 18 in Bellingham, and exits 19 and 20 in Milford. Is that what we want exit 21 in Hopkinton to look like?

Quiet – The Board uses an MLS listing service to monitor Hopkinton real estate. For the first time in memory, there are zero Indian Brook properties listed. It is winter, the low point of the year, but we didn't reach zero in any of the previous years.

Snow Fighting – This has been one heck of a winter so far. The new snow service was supposed to 'get used to us' but the winter threw them into the deep end of the pool. Starting with an ice storm first was particularly nasty. Groundskeeper has been pretty accommodating about addressing issues as they come up. And they've been responsive. Even so, we ask you to please keep your feedback coming in either to Dannin or to us so that we can get through this learning period in the best way possible. At the end of the winter, we'll ask you how we did and maybe for a bit more feedback on how/whether this can be done better.



And we have been working on things – for example, the sidewalk plowing is paying special attention to the area where the kids/parents wait for the bus and we've added a barrel of snow melt on the Birchwood side of Indian Brook for all residents to use.

Moving the Piles - The snow piles got large enough that the Board asked Groundskeeper to remove some of the snow from the parking lots. Since then, it hasn't snowed and it's been almost warm. If we had known that would be the effect, we'd have asked for the piles to be removed a lot sooner!

Snow Budget – In spite of a horrific December and January, the snow budget is not exhausted – we've spent about 80% of the planned amount for the winter (part of this from the 2008 budget, part from the 2009).

So Indian Brook is in reasonable shape. There is even still hope that Indian Brook will wind up spending a little *less* than we did last year. (Knock on wood.) Of course, at the rate the snow's been falling, we'll probably have snow on May 4th this year...



Pruning – All right, enough about winter. Let's talk **Spring**! We have a contract to prune the magnolias. The intent is to get them off the roofs, out of the gutters, and away from the walls. This contract was supposed to happen last fall, but didn't for various reasons. So now Regan Tree's first job is to think about how best to do this pruning without losing too many of the beautiful blossoms.

Pest Contract – The Board has renewed the pest contract with Dewey for 2009. Dewey agreed to charge the same amount as last year.

Twins – Congratulations to the Silvas! Christine gave birth to twin girls last month. Mom, dad, and daughters are all fine.

Board of Trustees	Alison Sholock, Brian Lachapelle, Debra Foley, Florence O'Donnell, Lily Zhan, Roland Janbergs, Scott Cellupica
	<i>Next Board meeting will 6:45 PM, 18 February, at 2 Doyle</i>
Dannin	Problems? Please contact Heather Denis hdenis@danninmgmt.com or Justin Lopes jlopes@danninmgmt.com first. Phone (617) 731-0222
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