



Babbler

Landscaping - This is the time of year when our complex looks its best, with the grass finally green again, all the trees leafing out, the many flowering shrubs in bloom, and spring bulbs bringing color into the picture once more. Soon the front entrance and sign beds will be planted with annual flowers. We've also just had our annual application of bark mulch; as a cost-saving measure, the landscape committee had mulch applied only to the more publicly visible areas this year: the fronts of all buildings, all islands, and the backs and sides of buildings only where they face roads. We plan to do this every other year, alternating with a full mulching of ALL beds. Mowing has been happening weekly (weather permitting), and while the Riverside crew is on the property they work on weeding. The complex is too large for everything to get weeded every time, so they do as much as they can in the time allotted to the property and tackle different areas each week. The crew foreman keeps track of what beds were weeded when and notes which ones most need work on a given day, and over several weeks it all gets done. If you see a particular area that you think needs attention, please let Dannin know.

Bush-whacking – The Board would like to make clear that residents cutting back bushes, or removing them entirely is not a good idea. We pay Riverside Landscape a lot of money to keep the grounds looking nice, and uniform, throughout the complex. We understand that you may feel your bush needs to be trimmed or removed, but if that is the case, please let Dannin or the landscape committee know so that that work can become part of the master plan. Random removals force us to spend the landscaping budget to refill those empty spaces to keep the property looking as it should.

Where We Are with the Capital Projects – this is subject to change. It reflects current thinking that may change as better prices are developed or as the costs are more completely understood. The Board thought you'd like to be kept informed:

- (1) Paving – We have an engineer drawing up specs that we can hand out to paving companies for bids. We intend to pave Weybridge this year if bids can be secured for the amount budgeted.
- (2) Roofing – A preliminary draft of the roofing spec is in hand. The Board has decided to secure quotes to determine if the specifications drafted can be implemented within current fiscal constraints.
- (3) STP – The Board applied for an extension for meeting the new Nitrogen requirements. We need to have engineering done this year (it is underway) and the STP upgraded by the end of 2012.
- (4) Lights – We're still researching a good, cost-effective way to replace all the short light posts. The look of the posts themselves and the costs they present have posed a real challenge.
- (5) Painting – We will paint 13-16 Birchwood and 17-20 Turnbridge. Anything more than that is dependent on the bigger ticket items listed above. Painting bids are being submitted for the first two buildings.
- (6) Deck Carpentry – we have bids coming in for carpenters to go around and replace spindles/railings throughout the complex. The amount that gets done is dependent on the costs.

Trash Can Lid – There is a green trash can lid by the Turnbridge mailbox. If you lost yours, go see if that's where it went.

Tax Question – New federal law allows people to deduct for energy efficiency improvements to their residences. One example is when they install new energy efficient windows in their units. It also allows people to deduct for new roofs. Since we are all part owners of Indian Brook and Indian Brook is replacing roofs, the question came up about whether a tax deduction would be allowed in this case. The Board is looking into whether residents can deduct a share of any monies spent on Indian Brook roofs on their 2009 taxes. For example, if we spend \$20,000, it might be possible to deduct 1/112th of \$20,000 or \$170 on each of our 1040s. We'll let you know what we find out.



Vandalism - Someone has been putting nails into the sidewalls of the tires on a particular car on Weybridge. This has happened twice. One time on Patriot's Day and one time on Saturday, May 2nd. Both times this occurred after a weekend night. The Hopkinton Police Department has been informed of the incidents and they said they would drive through here more often. If anyone has seen or heard anything that may be relevant, please pass the information on to Dannin, or the Hopkinton Police.

Screens Available – The twelve BestBilt casement windows at 18 Turnbridge are about to be replaced. Each window has a roughly 25x42” screen, held in by two push-pins at the top, that will be available in about 8 weeks time. If you have any interest in these, please contact rjanbergs@yahoo.com to arrange a pickup. There are also mullions/muntins from each window. A number of these have been glued and re-glued, but if you can use them, you're welcome to have them as well.



Recycling – We have a volunteer to help make pickups and deliveries of glass and paper recyclables to the dump. We would still need a driver with a small truck who would be available at the same time each week or two weeks. Any volunteers? By limiting the number of items we could make the job somewhat manageable and still make a green contribution. Please give us some feedback as to which items would be good to recycle.

Snow Survey Results – The internet survey didn't work. The product we used only works if pop-ups are allowed, and only if you're running the right software. We apologize for that and will look for a better mechanism to collect your answers the next time. Even with all the difficulty, seven people did take the time to write, and we do appreciate their feedback. Two people also managed to take the survey. Thank you to all.



Of the respondents mostly gave high marks and mentioned areas that could be tweaked/improved. One person sent in a complaint; we'll try to address her issues as well. Several people mentioned that, while the snow removal was fine, dealing with ice storms was a problem, especially at first. The mailboxes were also a problem at first.



The upshot of all of this is that the Board is considering extending another 'per inch' contract to Groundskeeper for 2009-2010. This gives us a chance to continue to monitor their work, to make sure things continue to improve as we get used to Groundskeeper and Groundskeeper gets used to us. It gives us a chance to make sure the 'tweaks' we want to do to the snow removal process work as planned.

Decks – People are getting out more because it is spring and the sun is drawing them outside. The Board is getting complaints about shovels and sleds on the decks, bikes, carriages, and children's toys left out and about. Please take a minute to look at your unit, front and back, with a critical eye. Please pick up your areas. It'll go a long way to keep your neighbors happy. Thanks.

Memorial Day - On Monday, 25May, Hopkinton will hold its annual Memorial Day commemorative events. At the town's nine military veteran memorial locations, wreaths will be placed, prayers and readings will be read and echo bugle taps will be played. A parade from Mayhew Street to the town common will include boy scouts, girl scouts, brownies, cub scouts, police, fire department, veterans and others. Events at the Gazebo will include dedication of the new Gazebo, short speeches, the band and other tributes to the members of our armed forces both alive and departed.

Events start at the Evergreen Cemetery in Woodville at 9:45 a.m. At 10:30, the numerous veteran memorial locations on Mayhew Street will each be honored. The parade to the Gazebo will start at 11:30 and end at noon with the traditional raising of the flag together with the singing of the National Anthem. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held at the Saint John's Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m.

All are invited to attend and to participate.

Board of Trustees	Alison Sholock, Brian Lachapelle, Debra Foley, Florence O'Donnell, Lily Zhan, Roland Janbergs, Scott Cellupica
	Next Board meeting will 6:45 PM, 20 May, at 15 Weybridge
Dannin	Problems? Please contact Heather Denis hdenis@danninmgmt.com or Justin Lopes jlopes@danninmgmt.com first. Phone (617) 731-0222
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