

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

In the year 2003, the members of the Highway Department, with assistance of a local tree service, removed 51 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. I have also shown where they were felled by a professional tree service and then cleaned up by the Highway Department. This 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</u>	<u>Completed by Highway Department</u>	<u>Assisted by Tree Service</u>
Allen Street		1
Ames Road	1	2
Bennett Road	4	
Burleigh Road		2
Main Street		1
Martin Farms Rd.	1	
Mill Road	5	5
North Road		22
North Monson Rd.		1
Scantic Rd.		1
Stony Hill Road	2	
Thresher Rd.		3
Wilbraham Rd.	2	1
Total Removals	14	37

Several stumps were ground, loamed and seeded at several other locations throughout the town in an effort to keep our roads clean and neat.

In an effort to provide training to department employees, two members attended a Chain Saw Skill & Safety class. This was conducted at the Quabbin Visitors' Center and was part of the MassHighway Baystate Roads Program. Robert Richards and Albert Rosati successfully completed the two-day course.

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 2003, the Highway Department completed several road improvement and maintenance projects. Some of the smaller projects were done with local funds, while the larger projects were funded with Chapter 90 Agreements through the Massachusetts Highway Department. A breakdown of these projects is as follows:

With Ch. 90 funding the following projects were completed. Thresher, Stafford, St. Germain, Rock-a-Dundee and Scantic Roads were chip sealed with liquid asphalt and trap rock. Two small remaining sections were also done on Burleigh and Hollow Roads. Echo Valley Drive had basin structures adjusted and was paved completely along with portions of Scantic Road, Main Street, Mountain Road and Wilbraham Road, which had sections leveled. Also with state-aid, 1,800-feet of Bennett Road was reconstructed. In this area, a complete storm drain system was installed with catch basins and manholes. Sub-drainage and curbing were also installed and all shoulders were loamed and seeded. The area of reconstruction was paved as was an additional 3,000-feet that was shimmed and leveled ending at the town line. The entire length, nearly one mile, is scheduled to receive a final surface of asphalt and trap rock this summer.

Some smaller drainage and repair projects were addressed this past year with local funds. A drainage ditch on Echo Valley Dr. was cleaned, a culvert on Ames Road was replaced and a catch basin on Wilbraham Rd. was reconstructed. A clay pocket in a section of Glendale Road was removed and the area graveled and repaved. Several pieces of equipment within the department were rebuilt or repaired during the year as well, including sanders and tag broom.

There were a total of 27 winter storms in 2003, which went down in the record books as one of the snowiest. During a storm in early January, one of the departments' four large dump trucks flipped over and was subsequently totaled by the insurance company. Fortunately, the operator was uninjured. The new replacement truck was delivered just before the start of this winter. 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.

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There were several new regulations and mandates imposed in 2003 that have had an impact on the department. These regulations often require additional funds for a variety of reasons. The EPA has also mandated a program titled "Storm Water Phase II", which now affects Hampden. This department was assigned a list of accomplishments to complete, relating to this "clean water" program. I would like to thank Tim Miodonka and Luke Mayotte for assisting Hampden in completing two of these accomplishments as their separate Eagle Scout Community Service Projects. To learn more about Storm Water Phase II, please visit the town's website. I would also like to thank the many other employees and volunteers of the town, as well as the residents, who have supported the Highway Department in past years.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Highway Superintendent