Board of Selectmen  
Town of Newbury  
12 Kent Way  
Byfield, MA 01922  

March 10, 2020  

Dear Board of Selectmen,  

After soliciting feedback from the town during public forums on October 26th and February 15th and engaging with various experts, including Tree Warden Tim Lamprey, we have compiled a complete list of recommended repairs / updates to the Upper Green. These repairs seek to restore Newbury’s beloved Upper Green while preserving its pastural and historic character, in keeping with the feedback we received from the community.

Suggested Upper Green Repairs

- Prune dead branches from existing trees, where needed, and simultaneously assess health of current trees. Assessment to be conducted by Tree Warden Tim Lamprey.
- Remove tree stumps (with stump grinder) and any very sick trees (based on the Tree Warden’s health assessment) along the perimeter of the Upper Green. Plant replacement and/or new trees in each instance and plant trees along the perimeter of the Upper Green where there are voids. Trees are to be set back 15-20 feet from the road for protection from road salt and are to be 3- to 4-inch minimum caliper. Select trees from the following native varieties:
  - Red Maple
  - Linden
  - Sweet Birch
  - Elm
  - Tupelo
  - Honey Locust
  - Mulberry
  - Eastern Hophornbeam
- Remove the two Evergreen trees (including stumps) and replace with a single Evergreen tree. Select tree from the following varieties:
  - White spruce
  - Norway spruce
- Apply gypsum in early spring to help improve drainage. Reapply as needed. Applications to be completed by Tree Warden Tim Lamprey
- Apply lime and organic fertilizer to help with grass and tree health
- Correct the pond outlet drain to facilitate pond drainage to appropriate level. This will require an evaluation of the current blockage.
- Repair and paint the flagpole (which is rotted at its base) or replace if necessary
- Repair the backstop for the baseball field where necessary, and repaint it using the same color in place today
- Plant shrubs behind each of the two baseball benches to serve as a safety barrier
• Clean up the walkway by the pond along High Road; weed and replace stone dust as necessary
• Freshen the plantings around the monuments / memorials through weeding and the addition of new plants. Solicit volunteers to maintain flower beds on an ongoing basis
• Fix the sink hole next to the catch basin at the edge of the pond; Newbury’s Department of Public Works will need to determine whether this is the town’s or the state’s responsibility
• Create ongoing program to keep geese off the property in order to (1) improve cleanliness of the Upper Green and (2) help keep the pond algae under control. Install two discrete “Please Do Not Feed the Geese” signs, encourage community use of radio-controlled boats on the pond and install a Bird-X electronic goose repellent. The Bird-X manufacturer confirmed the 4-speaker system would affect just Canada Geese (no other birds) and should be sufficient to cover the Upper Green pond. The manufacturer offers a satisfaction guarantee or your money back
• Fix the spotlight for the pond (to allow for night ice skating) using an energy-efficient bulb(s) and incorporate switch allowing light to be turned off when not in use
• Survey the Upper Green to the determine town vs. state lines, and ensure Dig Safe is used for all relevant repairs
• Fly flags on the telephone poles along High Road on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day
• Implement a maintenance schedule / program to maintain Upper Green repairs. Solicit volunteers to aid in the maintenance on an ongoing basis

Thank you for considering these repairs. While we have not outlined the associated cost, we recognize that the town has a fund set aside for the Upper Green specifically. If the cost exceeds the funds currently available, perhaps the town could request additional donations from the community.

We are happy to answer any questions about these recommendations via email or at one of your future meetings.

Sincerely,

The Upper Green Advisory Committee

Robin Etheridge, Janice Forest, Anthony Matthews, Amelia Random, Fred Thurlow