

Meeting Minutes - Approved
Upper Green Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – 6:30pm

Upper Green site walk, followed by meeting at Firemen's Hall, Morgan Ave.

Members Present: Robin Etheridge, Janice Forrest, Anthony Matthews, Amelia Random, Fred Thurlow
Guest Present: Tim Lamprey (Newbury, MA Tree Warden)

Upper Green Site Walk

Motion: At 6:30pm, a motion was made by R. Etheridge and seconded by A. Matthews to open the Upper Green Advisory Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A wish list of repairs to the Upper Green was discussed during a site walk. The repairs discussed were as follows:

- Getting rid of the geese.
- Removing tree stumps and any sick trees and planting replacement and new trees (multiple native varieties, set back further from the road for protection from road salt); also, trimming existing trees, where needed.
 - Trees on High Road may be under State control, in which case Mass Highway Approval would be required. To check deed / property map.
- Applying lime and fertilizer to help with grass health.
- Fixing the pond outlet grid issue.
- Putting down gypsum to help improve drainage.
- Improving – or potentially replacing – the evergreen trees at the center of the Upper Green; lime could help the trees.
- Painting the flagpole (or fixing it if the flagpole is no longer structurally sound; it was noted that the bottom of the flagpole sounded hollow.)
- It was noted that weedwhackers are hurting the trees.
- Painting the backstop for the baseball field.
- Cleaning up the walkway by the pond (along High Road).
- Freshening the plantings around the monuments / memorials.
- Repairing or replacing the pond aerator (there was also some discussion about whether this may be unnecessary).
- Fixing the sink hole near the pond along High Road (the town is aware of this).

Firemen's Hall Discussion

R. Etheridge announced that the discussion at Firemen's Hall was open.

Minutes from the August 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed. F. Thurlow offered three edits – adding two clarifications about the pond outlet grid drain and noting the time the meeting adjourned.

Motion: A motion was made by A. Matthews and seconded by F. Thurlow to approve the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes with the three amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Thurlow asked whether the committee might submit a list of recommended repairs for the fall. T. Lamprey noted that there are more tree varieties available to plant in the spring. All members ultimately agreed to postpone any recommendations until consulting the public twice, per the committee charge.

The Upper Green tree repairs were discussed:

- T. Lamprey noted that trees should be set back 30 feet from the road to remain healthy (protected from road salt).

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- T. Lamprey will follow up with a list of native trees of varying sizes to be considered for the Upper Green.
- T. Lamprey will be coordinating tree pruning on the Upper Green, at which point he can better assess which trees should be replaced.

Applications for the Upper Green lawn were discussed:

- Gypsum (to aid drainage) would require multiple applications (once per year).
- T. Lamprey noted that lime should be put down regularly, perhaps every two years.
- T. Lamprey also recommended Soil Moist be applied once per year to help water the soil.

The flagpole was discussed:

- J. Forrest reported that the Newbury Building Inspector said the flagpole looked sound.
- F. Thurlow noted that the bottom of the flagpole sounds hollow.

The geese were discussed:

- The Mass Audubon may be able to recommend a gadget that can keep geese off a property. A. Random offered to investigate the details, including the pricing, appearance and power source.

The Upper Green drainage was discussed:

- A. Random reported that the Town of Newbury is already planning to fix the pond outlet grid drain.
- T. Lamprey estimated the cost of gypsum to be \$15 per application for 1,000 square feet.

Next steps were discussed:

- J. Forrest noted that the Upper Green Committee charge mentions two Public Hearings, which have specific requirements. J. Forrest will follow up with the Board of Selectmen to inquire about the requirement for Public Hearings vs. information sessions.
- The agenda for the next meeting was outlined as follows:
 - Review of prior meeting minutes
 - Updates on prior meeting to-do items
 - Planning and preparation for the first information session, which is to be tentatively held at 10:00am on Saturday, October 26, 2019.

Motion: A motion was made by A. Random and seconded by F. Thurlow to hold the next Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00pm at Firemen's Hall on Morgan Ave. The motion passed unanimously. [The meeting location was since updated to Newbury's Municipal Offices, 12 Kent Way, Byfield, MA 01922.]

On a motion made by F. Thurlow and seconded by A. Matthews, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amelia Random
Upper Green Advisory Committee Clerk