

Village Improvement Committee 2013 Report

The Village Improvement Committee was created as an ad hoc committee to help the Town of Greensboro complete various village improvement initiatives. This past year, in response to a request by the Town, the Committee focused its efforts on improving the Village Green across from Willey's Store. In order to determine the wishes and interests of people living in Greensboro both year-round and part-time, the Greensboro Association administered an online survey questionnaire. The survey had 111 respondents and collected numerous opinions regarding plans for both the Village Green as well as for other village improvement initiatives.

Based on the survey responses, the Village Improvement Committee worked with Laura Hill and drafted a proposal, which was presented to the town Selectboard for official approval. The first phase of the Village Green improvement efforts included removing the large, overgrown evergreen tree in the center of the Green so that the entirety of the green space could be used. A new Fraser fir evergreen tree was donated by Jim Sowles and planted in the corner of the Green. This new "town Christmas tree" will be pruned and maintained to ensure it remains a manageable size for as long as possible. Secondly, the dead and dying maple trees along the side of the road were replaced with new maple trees that were planted farther inset from the road to prevent damage due to plowing and road salt. Flowering shrubs were also planted around the edge of the Green, which will provide colorful blossoms throughout the spring and summer and will help to give the Green a slightly more enclosed feeling. Also, due to the replacement of the water lines, there will be new sidewalks surrounding the Green very soon.

Future stages of the Village Green proposal include the purchasing of benches to be placed around the Green as well as some further shrubbery and blossoming fruit trees. The committee also plans to plant additional varieties of daylilies and improve the garden along the parking lot side of the Green. The hope is to create a beautiful, inviting, and usable space for all to enjoy throughout the seasons.

This summer, the Greensboro Association board voted to establish the Village Improvement Committee as a standing committee that would continue to aid the Town of Greensboro in its efforts to improve and maintain various areas and aspects of the town. We are looking forward to the continuation of our projects as well as to collaborating with the Town and others throughout Greensboro in order to make our community spaces as wonderful and accessible as possible.