

To: Town of Lincoln Selectmen
FM: Brooks Rd Abutters Group
DT: 5/22/2013
SJ: Demand for Replacement of Unnecessary Tree Removals

The following photographic evidence is pretty clear that there was little to no discretion given to the tree clearing operation along Route 2 and Brooks Rd., nor was proper protocol followed by walking and approving the tree cut line and marking any trees in the transition zone that could have been saved. The Town of Lincoln and the BRAG should be compensated for the unnecessary removal of these trees with additional replacement trees over and above those shown on the contract drawings, with species, size, and location determined by the abutters.

These trees, with minimal effort and coordination by MassDOT and Lincoln, should have been saved and the "new" plantings shifted and/or relocated accordingly. This clearly shows the lack of sensitivity and coordination by MassDOT, Lincoln, and DW White regarding their tree clearing operations.

We are aware that the Route 2 improvements show "new" landscaping and plantings in this area, however, NONE of the new plantings will be anywhere near the caliper size of the trees that were removed. In fact, most of the "new" trees range in caliper size from 1.5 inches to 2.5 inches and will take decades to grow to the size of the trees that were indiscriminately removed.

Below is an example of the species, sizes and staggered configuration of replacement trees we demand along the Stoterau property line to replace the numerous trees that were removed unnecessarily and without regard to 1) the "agreement" to save trees over 10" in diameter if possible, 2) the impact on the Stoterau property or 3) the impact to other abutters. We demand that the limit of work line be re-surveyed by MassDOT and DW White and "offset" with survey markers on the Stoterau property. This will allow the BRAG to re-establish the "limit of work line" at any time during the project and make sure the replacement trees are located appropriately. In addition, these replacement trees should be planted, staked, watered and maintained at the earliest possible optimum planting date for the specific species chosen. The trees below are from a recently completed project and are 12-15 feet in height and staggered/offset in a double row so that one cannot see between the trees regardless of the angle.





Here are photos from the front property line of 46 Cambridge Turnpike looking east and west. We count 9 tree stumps minimally, that are in the transition zone in this photo that should not have been removed without close review of the project drawings as these trees were all well in excess of 10" in diameter.

PLATE 1



This photo clearly shows 5 trees in the "transition" zone that did NOT have to be removed as the construction drawings show little to no change in grade or any planned improvement. Also, there is no limit of clearing survey staking which should clearly indicate the limit of clearing for the tree clearing subcontractor, which again shows the lack of sensitivity, control and coordination by MassDOT, Lincoln and the GC regarding the tree clearing operation. This is one area where we demand "replacement" evergreen trees.

PLATE 2



Photo of the existing evergreen trees in front of 1 Brooks Road that could have and should have been saved. Two of these trees were over 8" in diameter and the third was over 5" in diameter, all three trees were in excess of 25-30 feet tall and all three were evergreens that were strategically planted in that location decades ago to provide permanent year round screening.

PLATE 3



This photo shows the erosion controls installed along the edge of Brooks Road between #1 & #5 Brooks, which easily could have been adjusted slightly so that the existing forsythia bush did not have to be removed.

PLATE 4