

From: Morris Guthrie
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2007 7:55 AM
Subject: Report on Newly Discovered Hemlock Problem

The fatal disease that is infecting Hemlocks over a wide area has been discovered in the 45 trees of that species here at Fleetwood. The disease will eventually kill the trees, although their life can be prolonged with an expensive and repetitive treatment program. (The treatment would cost about \$1,000 to start and would need to be repeated about every 2-4 years.) The question now being discussed by the Board and the Grounds Chair is what do we do about this new problem."

We have evaluated the condition of our trees and the longer term view of the landscape requirements. We have found that most of the Hemlocks are overgrown and are not suitable plantings for where they are located. This is particularly true of all the Hemlocks near the entrance and surrounding the water pump house.

Our conclusion is that we should adopt a program that includes removal of almost all the Hemlocks and replace them as appropriate, with more suitable and appropriate plants such as Rhododendrons and Hollies.

Our first step is to remove the Hemlocks around the pump house and some scattered trees over the remainder of Fleetwood. The next step would be a general cleanup of the area and determine the replacement requirements, then begin replacement immediately, as funds allow. Some of the trees functioning as shrubbery would not require replacement.

This area has been on the "need to do" list for some time, but has been forced to the forefront with the disease invasion. Planning is underway to get this project started.

If you have comments and suggestions feel free to contact Ed Eggers, Grounds Chair or any of the Board members.

Morris