

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION SERVICES

The values for 2003 shown in the table on the following two pages indicate an above average year for Inspectional Services Personnel. A highlight of construction activity was the groundbreaking at the Brook School Apartments on 44 School Street. This project will add 24 apartments to the existing multiple dwelling project. Notable construction completions during 2003 were the commercial building by Liberty Mutual on Riverside Road, the McDowell Athletic Building at the Rivers School and two of the Town's elementary schools, Country and Woodland on Alphabet Lane.

At the 2003 Annual Town meeting, the town accepted a Massachusetts law that allows the Board of Assessors to value new construction as of June 30th, rather than waiting for the traditional January 1st valuation date. As part of instituting this new practice Inspectional Services alerts the Assessors' Office of all construction completions as they occur to allow the Assessors to take full advantage of this law for the Town.

	2003			2002		
	Permits <i>(Number)</i>	Est. Value <i>(Dollars)</i>	Fees <i>(Dollars)</i>	Permits <i>(Number)</i>	Est. Value <i>(Dollars)</i>	Fees <i>(Dollars)</i>
Single Family Residence	27	\$ 22,406,625	\$ 224,073	27	\$ 19,647,072	\$ 196,511
Multiple Dwelling District	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Building-Commercial	1	4,346,650	n/a	4	10,286,444	93,400
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Residential	195	25,132,569	251,768	169	22,699,900	229,497
Additions/Alterations/ Repairs - Commercial	10	2,937,970	29,381	8	500,500	4,805
*Other Construction/ Residential	178	3,600,285	40,431	208	3,257,959	37,291
*Other Construction/ Commercial/Municipal	23	681,978	7,025	23	245,315	2,665
Miscellaneous and Periodic Inspections	79	-	5,465	89	-	6,810
Total Construction	513	\$ 59,106,050	\$ 558,143	528	\$ 56,637,190	\$ 570,979
Gas Permits	349	-	13,593	363	-	13,884
Plumbing Permits	381	-	25,683	381	-	27,658
Wiring Permits	575	-	45,945	612	-	69,132
Total	1,305		\$ 85,221	1,356		\$ 110,674
*Demolition (included above)	24		\$ 4,900	33		\$ 6,600

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Activation of Weston's Emergency Management System was not required in 2003. Our Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was reviewed by members of the Town's Emergency Management Team and updated with the State. This plan will be critical in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency in Weston.

Late in the year a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was formed for Weston. Although similar in membership to our emergency management team, the LEPC is specifically charged with managing hazardous materials incidents. State certification, which has been applied for, will allow the town to become eligible for future funding as well as for state and federal reimbursement in the event of a serious hazardous materials release in Weston.

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

In calendar year 2003 the Weston Fire Department responded to 1,990 calls for service. We were fortunate again this year that there were no fire fatalities in Weston; however we did suffer two fires involving serious loss. I cannot stress enough the need for all of us to continue to make a conscious effort to protect ourselves from the dangers of fire including installing and testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and having and practicing a home escape plan.

In 2003 the Fire Department purchased a new breathing air compressor and self contained breathing apparatus through a competitive grant which we received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Thanks are due to the Gifford School and The Cambridge School of Weston for their generous donations towards the Town's ten percent match to this grant. Another grant will be used to replace our aging personal protective clothing and to install vehicle exhaust extraction systems in both of our fire stations. These two items will go a long way to increase the health and safety of our firefighters, as well as all those who visit our stations.

Although fire prevention is a critical part of our mission, reduction in overtime funding has forced us to reduce some of these activities. We continue to conduct some school visits, and fire safety inspections. These inspections include oil burning equipment, liquefied propane installations, home fire alarm systems, underground fuel tank removals, and blasting operations. In addition, quarterly inspections of nursing care and other facilities were conducted as required by law.

The Town's fleet of fire apparatus continues to be maintained by our department mechanic John Finnerty. John's personal concern for the readiness of our apparatus has always ensured we have the tools to do our job.

During the year, Firefighters Alan Lazzari and J. Terrance Notartomaso retired. FF Lazzari had served as Weston's Superintendent of Fire Alarm, a function that has been taken over by Firefighter/EMT Paul Nicholas. The maintenance of the town's system of fire alarm boxes continues to be one of the most reliable means to summon help in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Our Emergency Ambulance Service accounted for fewer than 50% of our calls. The department's Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders continue to update their training and skills to meet the changing demands placed on them. With the loss of one of our hospital based paramedic providers in June, we realized the importance of taking a more active role in securing this life saving service to our residents. I believe that a fire based system is the best

solution to this problem and am currently working with several area fire departments to ensure we will continue to provide this lifesaving service. As we continue to see more defibrillators placed in the community we cannot stress enough the importance of bystander CPR. Residents wishing to take a class in CPR or learn more about defibrillators are encouraged to contact the fire department.

The tough financial times of 2003 forced us to rethink and retool the services that we provide to the residents of Weston. Last year I mentioned the need to evaluate those services and reach a compromise between what we have had in the past and what we can afford in the future. Although we were able to fill one additional position this year, it is becoming more and more difficult for us to provide the depth of coverage that we have been able to provide to our residents in the past. The time has come where we need to increase the number of personnel who are available to respond to incidents in order to continue delivering safe, effective, and timely emergency service to the community. Any additional cuts to our budget are certain to have a negative impact on both resident and firefighter safety.

We look back with gratitude to all of those who have supported and assisted this Department in many ways. Citizen support and cooperation is essential if we are to continue to keep our Town fire safe and maintain an effective level of service. To the citizens of Weston, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Manager, and the members of the Weston Fire Department who have all worked so diligently, I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks.

2003 DEPARTMENT STATISTICS:

(Year ending December 31, 2003)

In 2003 the Weston Fire Department responded to 165 Bell Alarms and 1,825 Still Alarms for a total of 1,990 incidents as follows:

Fire Incidents ===== 145
 Ambulance Incidents ===== 947
 Other Emergency Services ===== 898

Mutual Aid:

Received from neighboring communities ===== 54 times
 Provided to our neighbors ===== 102 times

The Emergency Ambulance Service responded to 947 incidents as follows:

<u>Responded To:</u>		<u>Transport To Hospitals</u>	<u>Transport Not Required</u>
774	Medical Emergencies	542	232
173	Motor Vehicle Accidents	110	63

COMPARISON OF ALARMS ANSWERED -- 10 YEAR PERIOD

Year	No. of Alarms	Year	No. of Alarms	Period	Average No. of Alarms per Year
1994	1,418	1999	1,773	10 Year Avg.	1,770 Incidents
1995	1,535	2000	1,883		
1996	1,825	2001	2,080	5 Year Avg.	1,906 Incidents
1997	1,657	2002	1,803		
1998	1,740	2003	1,990	3 Year Avg.	1,958 Incidents

Permits Issued Pursuant To Massachusetts General Laws:

Burning Permits	486
Blasting Permits	9
Carpet Installations	0
LP Gas Storage Permits	28
Tank Truck Inspections	0
Cutting & Welding Permits	4
Explosives Storage Permits	0
Flammable Liquid Storage Permits	0
Underground Tank Removal Permits	13
Oil Burner Installations/Alterations	38
Fire Alarm Systems - New Construction	116
Fire Alarm Systems - Residential Sales	218

Fiscal Year 2003 Revenue Turned Over To The Town Treasurer:

Fees for Ambulance Services Rendered	== \$	173,861.44
Fees for Services To Mass. Turnpike Authority	== \$	21,562.50
All Other Revenues Received	== \$	124.00
Total Revenue Year 2001	== \$	195,547.49

DEPARTMENT APPARATUS INVENTORY

<u>APPARATUS</u>		<u>TYPE</u>	<u>YEAR</u> <u>PURCHASED</u>
Car - 2	=	4 WD Expedition	= 2003
Car - 3	=	4 WD Expedition	= 1998
M-1	=	4 WD Pickup Truck	= 1987
Engine - 1	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	= 1996
Engine - 2	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	= 1990
Engine - 3	=	1,250 GPM Pumper	= 2002
Engine - 4	=	1,000 GPM Pumper	= 1985
Engine - 5	=	4 WD Brush Truck	= 1991
Rescue - 3	=	Technical Rescue Unit	= 1999
Rescue - 4	=	Technical Rescue Unit	= 1970
Ladder - 1	=	85' Aerial Ladder	= 1977
Chief's Car	=	4 WD Explorer	= 1999
Ambulance - 1	=	1999 Horton ERV	= 1999
Ambulance - 2	=	1992 Braun ERV	= 1992
Boat & Trailer	=	14' Flat Bottom	= 1973
Fire Alarm Truck	=	36' Aerial Bucket	= 1981

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2003 there have been some significant changes in our Town and our Police Department. In January Sergeant Tom Healey retired after 40 years of service to the town. He filled many different job descriptions and titles over those years, but will always be remembered as "The Sarge." We thank Tom for his years of service; he will be missed. Bob Millen, who served as Community Services Officer for a number of years, has been promoted to the vacant Sergeant's position; Keith Kasprzak filled the C.S.O. position and our newest officer, David Spellman, came on board from the Franklin Police Department where he served as a police dispatcher for three years. Welcome Officer Spellman, we are expecting good things from you.



*New Chief Steven Shaw is sworn in by
Town Clerk M. Elizabeth Nolan*

More change: in July Chief Charles Mayo retired after six years as Weston's Chief of Police. We all join in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement. Deputy Chief Roland Anderson took on the role of acting Chief while the Board of Selectmen screened, interviewed and hired a replacement chief. Steven Shaw, formerly a Lieutenant with Weston P.D. and a twenty three year veteran of the department has been named Police Chief. The resulting vacancy in the lieutenant's position will not be filled. This past year brought home to us once more the fact that we need to find creative ways to do more with less.

In order to preserve patrol coverage, a function that we have targeted as a number one priority, and live within the current budget restraints, it was necessary to eliminate the position of Traffic Officer, which had been created in 1997 to address specific traffic related issues on a full-time basis, and one Inspector's position. The officers filling these two positions returned to patrol duty to help fill shift vacancies and reduce overtime costs. Although the effects of the past few years of economic downturn continue to put a strain on the budget, we are committed to looking for ways to reinstate police functions that may have been lost as a result.

As each year passes, we experience leaps in technological capabilities that previously were either not possible or prohibitively expensive. A small Homeland Security Grant enabled us to outfit all of our sector cars with laptop computers, giving officers in the field access to the Registry of Motor Vehicles database, Criminal Histories System Board information and Board of Probation data as well as secure communications car to car and town to town. These units also allow us to broadcast alert fliers and terrorist bulletins and to disseminate up to date information on criminal activity occurring within the town as well as surrounding communities much faster than ever before while keeping the radio traffic to a minimum. We are looking forward to integrating the upcoming town-wide GIS mapping program with this new technology to find more effective ways of analyzing data and providing our service of protection of lives and property.

During 2003 the police department received and investigated or responded to over 9,800 calls for service and our cruisers traveled more than 200,000 miles to carry out patrol, investigation of complaints and crime, training and prosecution of offenders. The number of miles traveled is much lower than in past years as we attempt to keep the high operating and maintenance costs of the fleet under control. Because of our proximity to major routes and the heavy traffic volume associated with that distinction, the police department recorded 322 accidents; seventy of those were minor in nature and required no written police report. Of the 252 accidents that required police reports there were no fatalities, no pedestrian injuries and only one accident involving a bicyclist. Traffic remains one of the more pressing issues handled by the police department and we will continue to make resolution of problems related to traffic a high priority.

This year an agreement was signed allowing cell towers to be placed on the police department lot in order to satisfy the Town's responsibility to provide space for wireless communications companies to expand their coverage areas. Some time in 2004 the public may notice that an odd looking tree has appeared in the rear lot of the station. No, that is not creative landscaping but you will no doubt find that your cell phone works better as you pass by. Susan Haber and the Planning Board were instrumental in overseeing this project and protecting the functionality of our public safety building. For that we are grateful, thank you Susan. I would also like to thank the various Boards, Departments and individuals who have worked so hard to assist the police and keep our community operating by working to find solution for those tough issues and problems that we are faced with on a regular basis.



Police officers at the Swearing-In

2003 Police Department Statistics

Automobile accidents investigated	322	Orders violated	1
Persons reported injured	80	E 911 Emergency calls recorded	525
Accidents involving bicycles	1	Fire department, assist on calls (other than rescue calls)	307
Accidents involving pedestrians	0	Lockouts, auto/home	34
Accidents - fatal	0	Lost property found in Weston	50
Accidents involving deer	38	Obscene & Harassing phone calls reported	34
Automobile thefts	0	Street lights reported out	375
Burglar alarms investigated	1,416	Sudden deaths investigated	9
Officers responding to burglar alarms	2,800	Traffic warnings sent to Registry	1,519
Complaints and investigations	9,864	Unlawful Credit Card Use & Checks	25
Complaints referred to Dog Officer	110	Civil citations forwarded to Registry	1,153
Animal Complaints Investigated by Police Officer	205	Trespassing	7
Report of dog bites	6	Acts of vandalism reported	27
Domestic abuse orders	61	Mailbox Damage	41
Emergency orders served	3		

Major Crimes Reported to Police in 2003

Assault and battery	7	Unlawful entry - no force	10
Burglaries reported	7	Attempts	4
Forcible entry	4	Larcenies reported	47

Motor Vehicle Violation/Complaints - 2003

Disobey signs, signals, markings	56	Operating, after license suspended	66
Fail to display plates	61	Operating uninsured motor vehicle	38
Fail to keep right	6	Operating, no display of registration sticker	13
Fail to keep right, view obstructed	3	Defective equipment	189
Fail to yield at intersection	37	Operating unregistered motor vehicle	79
Stop sign violation, Town road	117	Operating, violation of Town bylaws	18
Not wearing proper seatbelt restraint	64	Operating, violation of DPW rules/regulations	13
Operating, no license/registration in possession	90	Speeding	1,268
Fail to slow at intersection	18	Fail to stop - Red light	94
Fail to signal before stopping/turning	17	Miscellaneous	426
Fail to restrain child while operating motor vehicle	6	Total:	3,399
Non-inspected motor vehicle	720		

Revenues Generated by the Police Department in Calendar Year 2003

1. Reimbursed from Commonwealth Of Mass for Career Ed Incentive Plan:	\$120,951
2. Parking fines paid	4,870
3. Citations processed through Registry of Motor Vehicles, deemed civil assessments, minor in nature, minor traffic violations	105,390
4. Second District Court of Eastern Middlesex at Waltham, fines and assessments:	10,420
5. False burglar alarm assessments:	210
6. Requests for copies of reports - insurance co. etc:	1,356
7. Fees collected for issuance of firearms permits:	<u>2,300</u>
Total	\$245,497

Adult Arrests and Other Court Cases - 2003

	Male	Female		Male	Female
Larceny of a MV	1		Operating Under the		
Assault and Battery Domestic	9	1	Influence of Alcohol	9	2
Assault and Battery	5	1	Operating after License		
Disturbing the Peace		2	Suspended	60	4
Minor Transporting Alcohol	10	1	Operating Without Valid		
Larceny over \$250/Rec			License	48	
Stolen Property	2	2	Possession Class D -		
Violation of Protection Order	1		Marijuana	15	
Trespass After Notice	1		Warrants Served	19	5
			Total:	180	16

Disposition of Arrests - 2003

Dismissed- court cost	28
Arrest Turned over to other PD	17
Guilty	30
Responsible	26
Cont. without a Finding	17
Pre-Trial Probation	15
Sufficient Facts/Fine Assessment	38
Cases Cont. until 2004	25
Total:	<u>196</u>

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

Officer Keith Kasprzak is responsible for school related safety programs, police investigations and interventions with juveniles.

In November, Officer Kasprzak attended an intensive training program on the subject of "Responding to Missing and Abducted Children." The seminar covered family abduction, infant abduction, and reunification of missing children, non-family abduction and victim impact. Representatives of Federal agencies were also there to explain the resources that are available to communities that experience abductions. Since 25% of abducted children who are not found within one hour and 86% of those not found within 24 hours are never seen again, this training provided the department with tools for updating and improving our initial responses to abduction cases in order to increase recovery odds.

There were numerous incidents and investigations involving youths of both sexes. Predominant among them were: minors in possession of alcohol and/or marijuana, larceny, vandalism, threats, assault and batteries and Internet threats. Junior operator violations were higher than in previous years. These violations resulted in arrests, summonses, loss of licenses and/or probation. Many young offenders spent time performing Community Service. Many threats started on the Internet, usually through an instant messenger service.

The police department sponsored its seventh Weston High School student police internship, with Brett Yogel, Ashley Kalakowsky and Nicholas Shea learning about patrol procedures, fire-arms training, investigative techniques and court proceedings. Our interns believed that theirs was the best internship in the whole school. Nicholas Shea worked as a summer special police officer on the Cape after his internship, and felt that his internship gave him a huge advantage starting his career in police work.

Officer Kasprzak conducted “Stranger Danger” and “Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety” classes at all K-4 classrooms. All students participated in emergency bus safety evacuation classes. K-5 students participated in Halloween safety classes, while students in Grades 6-8 had a talk on being responsible, having fun and staying out of trouble. Weston High School students were educated on drug and alcohol abuse in Health classes by Officer Kasprzak. He also worked closely with those responsible for the Country and Woodland Schools construction project, ensuring safety for the students, faculty and visitors.

Maintaining a strong bond between local youths and police is one of the most valuable relationships within a community. Parents with questions or concerns regarding youth behavior may contact Officer Kasprzak weekdays at the Weston Police Department

2003 JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS/COMPLAINTS*

	Male	Female		Male	Female
Assault	5	2	Liquor Violations/ poss./use	14	11
Breaking & Entering			Pellet Gun	3	
Child in Need of Services		2	Possession of Dangerous Weapon	4	
Disorderly/Disturbance	4	2	Runaway	2	1
Drug Offenses	4		Miscellaneous	30	7
Domestic Complaints		1			
Fire Setting			Total:	66	26

Juvenile court appearances: 31
 Settled at school or family level: 50
 Referred to outside agency: 7

*Note: For the purpose of this report, juvenile matters are reported for ages 7 through 17. State reporting is for ages 7 through 16.

REPORT OF THE PARKING CLERK

Major changes made by the Selectmen to the Town’s parking regulations in 2003 were as follows:

- The fine for unauthorized use of a handicapped parking space was increased from \$25 to \$100 per offense. This change brings the town’s parking code into compliance with State law. Drivers are asked to be note that when there are several handicapped spaces together, there is generally a narrower, striped space indicated between. Parking in such a striped space is a violation of the handicapped regulation and carries the same \$100 fine.
- Late fees of \$5.00 per ticket were imposed on any parking ticket not paid or appealed within 21 days of the day it was issued.
- Parking on the West side of Wellesley Street opposite the High School baseball field is now prohibited. This change was to provide greater safety for cars entering and exiting the driveways on that side of the road. Please observe the signs that are posted there.
- Changes in the parking arrangements were made at the High School and at Field School to allow for better and safer traffic flows at drop off and dismissal times. Visitor parking is no longer permitted in the circle immediately in front of the High School. Those spaces are now

restricted to handicapped persons and specific permits. At Field School further possible improvements are anticipated.

- The reopening of Country and Woodland Schools also resulted in new traffic patterns. Parking for visitors and faculty may now be accessed via the 2nd driveway on the right, with more parking on Alphabet Lane. The Parking arrangements at Woodland remain similar to what they were in the past.

Safety issues and traffic circulation are of primary concern in establishing and enforcing parking restrictions. Of greatest importance is the ability of emergency vehicles to gain unimpeded access to all areas of the town as needed.

Massachusetts law prohibits parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or 20 feet of an intersection, in crosswalks, on State Highways or in handicapped spaces without a handicap license or placard.

Residents are reminded that parking is not permitted on any Town Road unless there is a 10 foot-wide traffic lane in each direction. Also the 2-hour limitation remains in effect in Weston Center.

Vehicles violating these and other parking regulations may be ticketed by the Police Department. If a ticket remains unpaid and no request for a hearing has been made to the Parking Clerk within 21 days, additional fines may be imposed and, after notice to the vehicle's owner, the ticket is marked at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Once a vehicle has been marked at the Registry, the owner may not renew or his or her driver's license or vehicle registration until all fines and late fees plus a \$20.00 penalty have been paid and a release has been issued by the Parking Clerk.

Questions may be addressed to the Parking Clerk at Town Hall or to the Police Department. Information is also available at www.weston.org

The following is a summary of parking activity for the year ended June 30, 2003:

Tickets issued	349	Fines levied:	\$5,015.00
Tickets dismissed:	40	Fines dismissed	630.00
Tickets paid	315	Total fines collected	\$4,870.00

PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

For a variety of reasons, the year was relatively quiet. We had anticipated that work would begin on a section of sidewalk on Highland Street, but because of other workload priorities, this did not go out for bid with drainage/roadway work until the fall. Work has started on this project, and should be completed by mid to late spring of 2004. This section will connect from around Dickson Meadow up to the lookout pull off.

If sufficient funds are available, we could anticipate construction of a section of walk on Ash Street from the Reservoir to Newton Street in late 2004 – early 2005.

We continue to have occasional dialogue with the Traffic Advisory Committee on traffic/safety issues.

REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Overview – Traffic continues to be on the minds of many Weston residents, and we added 14 new projects to our list in 2003, for a total of 100. Of these, 90 % had been completed by yearend.

Lexington Street – The committee continued to monitor the effectiveness of the speed humps installed on Lexington Street in 2001 and found the results to be consistent with previous data. The speed of vehicles has been significantly reduced and, in a survey conducted by the Selectmen, residents generally expressed their satisfaction with the speed humps.

North Avenue and Church Street – This project was completed earlier in the year and the design, created by the town's Department of Public Works, has met the objectives of this project. The pedestrian crossing of North Avenue is in place, and residents report a reduction in the speed of eastbound North Avenue traffic turning south into Church Street.

Bogle Street – This project involves a search for traffic mitigation measures needed to counteract increased traffic due to the new athletic center on the campus of the Rivers School. This project has been under investigation by our committee for almost two years and was held up during 2003 by a delay in the execution of an agreement by Rivers and the Town. The agreement (now in place) includes funding by Rivers for traffic mitigation, and this project will now be actively pursued in 2004.

Radcliffe Road – Neighbors petitioned the committee for a four-way STOP sign at the Radcliffe/Beaver intersection where visibility is poor. The committee asked the Department of Public Works to install warning signs with flags. Speed profile data taken before and after this installation indicated a noticeable reduction in traffic speeds, and this part of the project is now complete. We will continue to monitor traffic on Radcliffe Road for significant negative impact resulting from any mitigation measures on Bogle Street.

Ox Bow Road – Ox Bow Road residents asked the committee for help in dealing with high volume, speeding traffic on their road caused mainly by commuter traffic heading to and from the turnpike. During our preliminary discussions we encountered strong opposition from surrounding neighborhood groups and we have been working actively with all parties to come up with a solution acceptable to all. The intersection of Ox Bow and Intervale Roads is a part of this project.

Sudbury Road – High volume, speeding traffic brought Sudbury Road residents neighbors to the committee for help, and we have been actively investigating possible mitigation measures for Sudbury Road.

Weston Center – The committee began a detailed study of traffic patterns and crash records in the area between Highland and Wellesley Streets, including Route 20 and the Bypass through the town's center. Our goal is to provide the Selectmen with a set of options that could reduce the crash rates, especially at Highland and Wellesley Streets and to reduce, if possible, the traffic through the town's center.

We expect 2004 to be another busy year for the committee.

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

During 2003 approximately 15 days were spent in pruning trees, removing deadwood, upbranching and repairing storm damage. The balance of the budget was spent on dead or hazardous tree removals and the necessary police details.

NSTAR initiated a program of tree removals with the object of reducing future power outages with the removal of potential hazards. These removals are done at no cost to the town. The Tree Warden, a certified arborist, reviewed all of the suggested removals with NSTAR's arborist. Some healthy trees were taken off the removal list following agreement that they did not pose a significant hazard. The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board held hearings at which resident input was solicited. Approved tree removals were started in the fall of 2003. This process is continuing into 2004.

The Tree Warden worked with the Tree Advisory Group (TAG) on Arbor Day celebrations at the Field School. This resulted in the planting of four trees at the school with enthusiastic assistance from the students.

With assistance from the TAG, the Town Manager's office, and the Cemetery Department, the Town submitted an application to have Weston declared a Tree City USA. Our application was approved at the state level and Weston will be designated a Tree City USA in April of 2004. This is an ongoing commitment to the high level of tree work done in the town.



Members of the Tree Advisory Group survey trees on Glen Road

During the summer and fall, the Tree Warden compiled a list of approximately 96 dead and hazardous town trees for removal. The trees on this list on "non-scenic" roads were the subject of a hearing by the Board of Selectmen; removals of those approved are being carried out during the winter of 2003/2004.

The Board of Selectmen held a hearing on those removals on non-Scenic roads at Town expense. The approved removals are being carried out. After the Planning Board holds a hearing for the trees on scenic roads, the approved removals will be done. Tree pruning for safety and the health of our trees is an ongoing activity.