

NOTICE:
All improvements on Public
Property requires the review
and approval of the Department
of Public Works.

Adopted by the
Planning Board
6/24/93

BEACON STREET GUIDELINES

Beacon Street is a grand boulevard, Brookline's most attractive major street and a National Register District. In the interest of maintaining the qualities important to us in Brookline and setting standards or criteria for volunteer and Town efforts, we should bear in mind the following:

A. TREES

1. Street trees - large trees or grand size trees (60-90 ft. ultimate height) should be planted in 4 rows for the full length of the street. Street tree species should be selected on the basis of their aesthetic, environmental, economic and horticultural appropriateness. Selected species should be attractive, have a high chance of surviving given the availability of water, soil, and light at the site, and have a growth form that does not require high maintenance.
2. Smaller flowering trees should be avoided and if used, planted outside the 4 rows and never on narrow sidewalks.
3. Trees that retain their leaves over winter and those with low branches should not be planted in commercial areas.
4. There should be no trees with normal leaf color other than green.
5. There should be no evergreen trees.
6. Pits should be at least 3 x 5 feet and have mulch or grates in them.
7. There should be no seasonal lighting of trees except for those lighted by the Town.
8. Since trees are the most important aspect of the framework of Beacon Street, all efforts should be made to protect them and to ensure their survival.

B. STREET FURNITURE

1. All street furniture should be chosen to reinforce the commercial area identity. Lighting, benches, trash containers, fencing, etc should be chosen with that in mind.

2. MBTA shelters should all be the same except those of historical significance at Coolidge Corner. The shelter at St. Paul Street is the least obtrusive, all others should match it.
3. Appropriately designed fencing in the median should be encouraged to protect landscaping at T stops and uncontrolled midblock crossing.
4. Trash receptacles such as those contributed by the Chamber are excellent. The Town should encourage more of this kind of contribution.
5. There should be no mounds or berms. The original grade of the roadway and median should be maintained.
6. No curbing materials other than granite is acceptable.

C. SIGNS

1. It is important that the Town minimize signs on our Town most important street. Since it is also a National Register District, it deserves more than the standard respect. It would be better to publish in the newspaper several times a year the volunteer efforts, rather than providing small but very expensive signs at every intersection. Having a Town ceremony to honor volunteers is another option.
2. Traffic signs should be limited. We should remove any extra signs and regard cautiously the addition of any new ones.

D. VOLUNTEERS

1. Volunteers should be encouraged to appreciate Beacon Street as a public space rather than a domestic one.
2. Funds from volunteer associations can be used advantageously. Possible uses are:
 - a. Funding a window expert to help those who cannot appreciate the importance of window decoration and design as an enhancement to business.
 - b. Collecting money to plant trees, replace chain link fences with better looking fencing and where fencing is appropriate, establish a fund to help with repairs.
 - c. Continue with the trash receptacle program.
 - d. Collect money to landscape Arts Council displays.

3. Helpful Activities

- a. Organizing spring cleanup for all commercial areas in April 4 of each year around earth day.
- b. Encouraging other merchants to remove clutter from their windows, especially paper window signs.
- c. Annual planting and maintenance in appropriate locations.

E. LANDSCAPING

1. Permanent plantings should be limited to evergreen shrubs, including flowering evergreens. They should not be variegated.
2. No plants with thorns should be planted.
3. Perennials should not be planted in tree pits.
4. Merchants should be encouraged to create and maintain attractive, low-cost and low maintenance landscaping wherever possible to improve the attractiveness of commercial areas. Annual planting should be chosen from the list provided by the Park Department and should be planted in tree pits only as a last resort.
5. Raising the height of the tree pit or surrounding it with wood strips after the tree is established will damage the tree and make it vulnerable to disease. Excessive mulching should be avoided. (David Turner is currently reviewing this issue from the point of public safety and the Town's liability)

F. GRAFFITI

1. Graffiti and posted signs should be removed from the public way promptly. Owners should be notified of graffiti on private property to speed up the removal process.