



## Fall 2022 Program Advisory Committee Minutes October 20, 2022

---

**Program:** Landscape  
**Members Present:**  
**Program Facilitator:** Jack Domoracki  
**Committee Chair:** *Bill Butts*

### Program Updates (enrollment, curriculum, equipment & projects/field work, etc.)

Currently

17 Seniors 12 out on co-op

14 Juniors

23 Sophomores

All members present introduced themselves. A special thanks was given to Kevin Richardson for his putting together a very generous gift of a hydro-seeder to the program and to MALCP representatives Joe of SLS & Gerry White of pH lawn care for their work with students on the campus lawn renovation project.

The discussion included the off campus work students performed last year including shoveling fire hydrants for the fire department in Danvers and the Juniors last year installing brick and plantings for The Larkin Memorial in Salem.

On campus projects discussed were the lawn renovations working with MALCP and and the regarding and seeding of areas disturbed by construction behind



Gallant. Ongoing maintenance routines of mowing and bed maintenance were also reviewed. Landscape students have been involved in grading and projects that involve skid steer and excavator work.

Jack informed the committee that students had prepped an area down by North Shore Community College where students could practice building stone walls. The area prepped 2 years ago by the advisory group across from the mower shed currently used as material storage was being converted to an area to practice paver installation. This would allow students to prep and compact base material for masonry work. The area between Arbor & the bus garage was prepped with ¾” pac material so Arbor can construct a shed. Arbor will move their tools from the garage once this is built. A nursery was prepared across the street to allow for a place for students to plant trees and shrubs. All of these projects were implemented to increase the training & learning space for students due to the lack of space in the indoor shop. With 23 sophomores currently in the program and the potential to recruit the same # of freshman this year, we are trying to increase our learning space. Tim is staying with his freshman exploratory program that was successful in recruiting 23 students last year.

Students have been using the hydroseeder that was donated by Kevin Richardson. It has been a great tool for them to practice with. It was used to seed the lawn area between Gallant & the Gym.

Students are getting experience using auto levels and laser levels to set grades.

Students have also been using the tools donated by Hilti as well as using the IQ Dustless saw for pavers.

The air max that was installed in the shop has been helping to keep dust levels down when students are working on masonry projects inside.



We have currently budgeted for new 2 back pac blowers, 3 string trimmers and 2 push mowers. If the freshman recruiting numbers are the same as last year we will have to increase the amount of string trimmers and push mowers purchased to keep up with the numbers of students in the program.

Tim and Jack have been collaborating with Arbor on pruning and plant ID projects.

### Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review

All textbooks currently used are compliant.

A large portion of the discussion was on how to reach out to parents about the potential careers in the landscape field. Ways were discussed as to how to use social media and other types of media to connect with parents and let them know of the career opportunities in the landscape field.

Joe Crowley has been working on a video for his company and will be sharing it with us when it is complete.

### Cooperative Education Update

We currently have 12 seniors out on co-op. The types of jobs include golf course work, nurseries, lawn maintenance companies and 1 student doing property maintenance for a retirement community.

Jack informed the group that juniors will be starting on resumes in November and will be eligible for co-op Mid January. Jack's goal is to get all 14 students working in the field by April.



Companies who are looking for co-op students are directed to Lisa Berube, Kristin Doherty and Liz Shea who are the co-op directors. They can facilitate posting jobs and guiding both students and companies through the process.

Jack informed the group our program is actively involved in helping students select a position that will utilize their skills and is within reach of their transportation limitations. We try to fit students with a good employer match so that both benefit from the experience. Students who want to participate in school sports are traditionally focused on finding employment at golf courses and nurseries as they tend to have scheduling flexibility for sports and after school activities. Jack & Tim thanked all the employers who participate in the co-op program.

### [Employment Outlook/Industry Trends](#)

The groups input is as follows:

Employers are looking for skilled workers who can use equipment and tools of the industry. Employees who can drive trucks and back up trailers, operate all types of commercial mowing and maintenance equipment, operate skid steer loaders, articulating loaders and excavators are all in high demand. There is currently a severe shortage of workers with these equipment operator skills. Employees with plant & turf knowledge are also in high demand.

Industry is also looking for people eligible to take the pesticide exam, hoisting license exam & ICPI certification. All areas of the landscape industry from golf courses, maintenance companies, hardscape companies, irrigation companies and nurseries are struggling to fill positions.

The current trend for companies is offering more of a variety of services and products to compete in the market. Low voltage night lighting and snow removal are large parts of the industry now. John Marshall asked if these may be incorporated when the new frameworks are written.



### **Recommendations for Program** *(including budget needs for FY24)*

The advisory group unanimously recommended the following:

A 14 passenger van with a 14' dump trailer is recommended to move students and materials for more off campus work in the community and more efficient on campus work.

An articulated loader is recommended with a bucket and forks to prepare students to operate equipment found in most nurseries.

A small portable screener is recommended to screen on campus loam, soil & compost. This will give students valuable time operating loaders, skid steers and excavators and producing material that can be used on campus landscape projects including the Larkin project.

### **Financial Fair Recruitment**

At this time no one is available. Members will be checking their schedules to see if they can accommodate.

### **New Business**

An additional landscape teacher is recommended to help with the additional students if recruitment is up and the class sizes are over 20,. With larger class sizes, student safety should be a priority. An additional teacher will allow for more training time for students on the various pieces of equipment and tools that the members have stated are critical skills for a trained workforce. It will also allow for more on and off campus work projects to be taken on as the students could be split up between teachers. The teacher could work with the sophomore teacher during the sophomore shop cycle which currently has 23 students. The additional



# ESSEX NORTH SHORE

## AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

teacher could work the other cycle with the Juniors from September until April, when many junior students will go out on co-op. That time period is critical as the student curriculum covers much of the training in construction, grading and equipment operating techniques the students will need to practice before going out into the workforce. Students need to gain as much experience as possible before going out on co-op. With a small shop space for possibly up to 40-50 students per cycle during the winter months, the additional teacher will be a significant help in managing class size and projects in the shop space. When most of the Junior students go out on co-op, the additional teacher could work with the freshman class and the Junior/senior teacher can manage on and off campus work.

It was noted that some of the other programs with similar size classes have an additional teacher/personnel.

**The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:25**