



TOWN INVESTS IN STUMP GRINDER

Stumps detract from the look of streetscapes and inhibit planting of replacement trees. Soon after a tree is cut down, stumps also start to decay. Over time, rotting stumps may create a safety hazard or become home to pests like termites or carpenter ants. Stumps are a problem, but what should towns do?

Stump grinding and stump removal, the two choices, each have pros and cons; however, removal is more risky and expensive. Taking out a stump requires excavation and removal of the stump as well as digging out of the root system. Removal leaves a clean slate for replanting but can damage adjacent curbing, roads, and underground utilities.

Grinding uses a super-sized drill to machine the stump into tiny pieces creating wood chips. Grinding tackles just the visible tree remains, so roots are still underground. These slowly decay too but are less bulky than a stump so not as problematic.

With its own grinder, the Town has more flexibility in scheduling any needed work and will save money on contracting services.



PHOTOS, above & at left: Jim Denusha, Foreman

Find [Town of Groton](#) on Facebook to check out our **Stump Grinding video!**



DEPARTMENT NEWS

⊕ TRANSFER STATION

The Southeastern CT Regional Resource Recovery Authority (SCRRA) has begun chipping the brush pile at the Transfer Station. As a result, **double-ground woodchips will soon be available for spring projects.**

Wood chips are free of charge to residents & available on a “shovel yourself” basis while supplies last.



⊕ SUSTAINABILITY

Public Works has been selected once again to host a University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute (UNHSI) Fellow. The Fellow will work out of the Sustainability Division of Public Works under the supervision of Project Manager Rick Norris from June 1- August 17, 2020. The student will employ municipal and school energy usage data to update the Town's **Benchmarking and Greenhouse Gas Inventory**. This is a continuation of work undertaken by an UNHSI Fellow in 2018 and will help evaluate the effectiveness of energy conservation and efficiency projects already completed.

STORMWATER: Public Comment Invited



Stormwater is simply rain or snowmelt. The Town's Stormwater Management Plan was created to meet requirements of the CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems*, known commonly as “the MS4.”

An Annual Report summarizing the Town's efforts in 2019 will be available for public comment beginning Friday, Feb. 7, 2020. ***This should be of interest to those concerned with the health of local surface waters such as the Thames, Poquonnock, and Mystic Rivers, or Fishers Island Sound.***

The required review period ends March 10, 2020 with the report available to view on the Town website [Stormwater page](#) (www.groton-ct.gov/depts/pubwks/storm), or at the Town Hall Annex or Library.



The annual report will be submitted to DEEP for their April 1 deadline. A copy of the Town Stormwater Plan is available permanently on the [same page](#) and at Town Hall Annex during business hours.

Direct questions or comments here:

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