

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

LEAF BLOWER DEMONSTRATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Present: Ald. Sangiolo (Chairman), Baker, Kalis, Rice, Leary, Blazar
Also Present: Ald. Ciccone and Crossley

The Committee met on the Commonwealth Avenue lawn opposite City Hall for a demonstration of various models and types of leaf blowers relative to their work on the leaf blower portion of the noise ordinance. Mr. Caruso and other landscaping professionals have expressed through emails, and comments in Committee meetings that the lower dB machines do not have the power required to efficiently move leaves and wanted the Committee members to witness the difference in power between several conventional blowers. Several constituencies had offered comments that raking or other quieter, less-polluting equipment could be just as efficient as leaf blowers, therefore, Ald. Leary invited George Carrette from EcoQuiet Lawncare to join the demonstration. Ald. Baker volunteered to demonstrate raking.

Mr. Caruso carefully measured and partitioned off several 40x25 feet areas of leaf-filled lawn on Commonwealth Ave. A Newton police officer as well as Anthony Ciccariello from the Inspectional Services Department took readings with two decibel meters approximately 50 yards from each running leaf blower. Each participant was given 5 minutes, timed by Ald. Sangiolo to work on their section to clear leaves.

Section 1:

Joe Caruso used an electric model 120 volt Toro leaf blower, powered by a generator. No decibel level markings could be found on the machine.

The decibel readings ranged from 68-72 which included the blower and the generator.

The lot was approximately 2/3 cleared in 5 minutes.

Section 2:

Phil Jepsen used a Red Maxx 7500 with a decibel rating of 77 (2-cycle)

The decibel readings ranged from 80-83

The lot was completely cleared in 2 minutes.

Section 3:

Dominic Caruso used an Echo 760 backpack blower with a decibel rating of 65. (2-cycle)

The decibel readings ranged from 64-68

The lot was mostly cleared in 3.5 minutes.

Section 4:

Michael Caruso used a Fradan 9hp push model blower. (4-cycle). No decibel level markings could be found on the machine.

The decibel readings ranged from 82-84

The lot was completely cleared in about a minute.

Section 5:

George Carrette from EcoQuiet Lawncare, used a hand-held Greenworks 80 volt pro blower, 520 cfm with a rechargeable lithium battery.

The decibel readings ranged from 62-66

The lot was not prepared as were the other lots, but a similar size was cleared in about 5 minutes.

Section 6:

Alderman Baker used a fan rake.

The decibel readings ranged from 52-57

The lot was mostly cleared within 5 minutes.

A video of the demonstration, with exact times, can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCa5FzUhHPs&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks to Chris Pitts for recording and editing the video.