

Lincoln Board of Health
Site Visit Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
12 Bypass Road

Members Present: Frederick Mansfield, M.D., Chairman
Steven Kanner, M.D.
Patricia Miller
Others Present: Elaine Carroll, Adm. Assistant

The presentation started at 6:15.

Demonstration:

The demonstration on the noise created by leaf blower equipment started at 6:15 p.m. by Steve Walz from Harvard Outdoor Power Equipment and John from Stihl Company. The demonstration on commercial units was started at 150 feet away from the decibel reader held by Dr. Kanner as follows:

Billy Goat, gas model F902 priced at \$1,359.99

150' away – 62 decibels
125' away – 65 decibels
100' away – 71 decibels
50' away – 74 decibels

Billy Goat, gas model F601 priced at \$729.99

150' away – 58 decibels
125' away – 60 decibels
100' away – 62 decibels
75' away – 68 decibels
50' away – 75 decibels

Stihl gas model BR500 low dB priced at \$479.95

100' away – 57 decibels
75' away – 61 decibels
50' away – 65 decibels
(Quiet back pack that no one wants – not very popular with landscapers – has a lower pitch and less annoying)

Stihl gas model BG66L low dB priced at \$229.95

100' away – 56 decibels
75' away – 60 decibels
50' away – 63 decibels
(This one is good in neighborhoods with homeowners but do not sell much commercially)

Stihl gas model BR700 priced at \$549.95

100' away – 64 decibels
75' away – 71 decibels
50' away – 74 decibels
(This is a stronger bigger fan and has an extension on pipe which is easier to use but would make more noise and is a little heavier at 23.4 lbs.)

Stihl gas model BR600 priced at \$499.95

100' away – 64 decibels
75' away – 71 decibels
50' away – 77-78 decibels
(More popular model with landscapers weighing at 21.6 lbs. more powerful and more comfortable with more padding)

Stihl battery operated BGA100 priced at \$349.95 with battery pack costing \$849.99

50' away – 57 decibels

(AR3000 battery pack takes 3 hours to recharge battery pack with 6 batteries in it and will get about 500 plus cycles of charges and runs for about 130 – 160 minutes at high speed – battery can be used on other forms of equipment)

Stihl battery operated BGA85 priced at \$229.95 with charger costing \$79.99 and battery pack costing \$159.99
50' away – 62 decibels

(Has the battery in the machine – can do fast cleanup by putting in a battery – has easy start but the noise is about the same as a gas one and get 35-40 minutes on battery life with only one speed

The contractors like the back pack units because they are less cumbersome and can get into smaller spaces. The hand held units are hard to use for 6 to 8 hours. They are made to be quieter but not if holding for that long – used just to clean off patios.

Gas Trimmer

75' away – 72 decibels

50' away – 74 decibels

(Need to run it continuously – no shutting off between areas because harder to restart – gas trimmers are heavy and get gas in the face)

Battery Trimmer

75' away – 50 decibels

50' away – 51 decibels

(This works well for 30-40 minutes but can shut it off to next trim – easy to restart)

The demonstration ended at 7:30 p.m. and will be discussed at the next Board of Health meeting on August 10, 2016.

Submitted by Elaine M. Carroll