



Recently, the Town of Norwell experienced a rash of street sign vandalism throughout Town by certain individuals who removed dozens of street signs & posts. To some, this would seem a harmless prank with little to no repercussions. Looking beyond the immediate inconvenience of those unfamiliar with the Town who may be searching for a particular address, you have to be mindful of the ramifications of this act when considering public safety.

My first thought goes to those in need of assistance from our Police and Fire Departments who, when called, either directly, or via 911, utilize these street signs to respond to those in need as quickly as possible. Putting aside the initial cost of replacing these signs and posts, that can cost into the thousands of dollars when you factor in the costs of the signs, posts, time, and labor to install.

I would like to share the following story that I read and heard about. Several years ago a group of teens were engaged in a “scavenger hunt” that had one (1) stop sign on their list of items to be collected. After that one (1) particular stop sign was removed from that intersection, a motorist, unfamiliar with the area, was killed when proceeding through the now un-signed intersection. These teens were all identified and charged with manslaughter. A night of what teens think of as “harmless” fun.... turned tragic.

If anyone knows the location of these signs, the Highway Department would be happy to pick them up or they can be dropped off at the Highway Department yard/Recycling Center area with no questions asked. If you know the location of any of these signs please call the Highway Department office at 781-659-8042.

In the interest of public safety and your tax dollar.

Paul M. Foulsham
Highway Surveyor/Director of Lands & Natural Resources