

Mailbox Replacement

The Hiddenbrooke Property Owners Association (HPOA) and Hiddenbrooke Architectural Review Committee (HARC) recently published guidelines for mailbox replacement.

Mail Box Replacements should be the same color as the original box or black, the same shape when possible, no larger than 13" wide x 23" long x 12" high, and no smaller than 6" wide, 20" long, 10" high. Boxes on the same post should match or owner needs to submit application for HARC approval.

The goal of these guidelines is to keep continuity on our streetscapes, so that we don't have a mish-mash of random mailbox sizes, shapes and colors throughout our neighborhoods. For the most part it's common sense. If your neighborhood has simple round top or square mailboxes, then you may replace your mailbox with a new box of the same make and style, or another with a similar size and style, without getting HARC approval.

Most homes share a mailbox post with their neighbor and the next post is 50-100 feet away. In some cases there may be a single mailbox, and in a few others, a set of 3 mailboxes in a row. HPOA and HARC decided that as long as all the mailboxes on a post (or 3 in a row) match, then a wider range of options would be acceptable. This means that if your neighborhood has round top boxes, but you and your neighbor both want to switch to a different style box, as long as they match and fit the size requirements listed above, then that's okay.

What we don't want to see are two vastly different mailboxes sharing a post, or within a few feet of each other. If your new mailbox choice is different in shape than your old one, then you will need to talk to your neighbor and see if you can both agree to change out mailboxes at the same time. If you and your neighbor are unable to come to an agreement, then you can submit an application to HARC for review. Please include specific details about the boxes to be replaced as well as the reason you and your neighbor cannot come into agreement. The standard \$50 fee will be waived for all mail box replacement requests. **Note: HARC may follow up directly with your neighbor. HARC will take into consideration how compatible the mailboxes look, including how close they are in size and shape, etc.**

There are locking mailboxes in just about every size and shape. Some are simple with a slot in the front for the mail carrier to slide your mail into, while others have more elaborate systems, more like a mail chute or drawer, like you would see on the big blue US Mail boxes. Either one of these options is fine, and will deter mail theft. Even a 2-3 inch wide slot will deter a thief, as mail thieves are looking for quick and easy prey, and they won't want to mess around with trying to reach into a 2-3 inch slot to get your mail. They will likely close your box and walk down to the next box, hoping for easier access elsewhere.

Examples:



Not Acceptable



Acceptable



Acceptable



Acceptable