

Building Committee
Landscaping Subcommittee
Minutes March 11, 2013

Present: Linda Hearn, Leah Smith, Margaret Logue, Tim Boland, Nelia Decker

Guests: Beth Kramer, Paul Levine, Cathy Brannan

Minutes approved: 10/4, 11/1 and 1/24. Nelia will send to Tara for posting.

Japanese Knotweed:

At the last meeting of the Building Co., it was approved that monies from the contingency fund would be given to handle part of the Japanese knotweed situation. The large stand at the back, on the northern side of the Library will be dug and sifted. The weed material will be taken to the transfer station and from there trucked off Island. The contaminated dirt will be buried deeply enough on the Library property so as not to re-grow.

Paul Levine: questions about the injection process, contamination of surrounding soil and the half life of glyphosate. While Tim suggested contacting Seth Wilkinson directly for more precise answers, he was able to clarify a few issues: Once glyphosate is injected into the plant, it doesn't leak out. It translocates all the way down to the tip of the root, and kills the biomass. It doesn't have a long half life; used in wetlands it dissipates quickly. The rain gardens are peripheral and adjacent to sections of the knotweed, so we may have to treat it as it appears...delaying planting until the fall. Some digging and removal may be required. These beds will have to be monitored carefully. The knotweed exists in patches all along the north side of the parking lot. It may be useful to have the sifter on site to deal with the material as it comes out of the rain garden ditches. As we excavate the parking lot this spring, we should delineate the areas of the rain gardens with paint in order to see where they will be situated in terms of the parking lot and where the knotweed is growing.

Rain Gardens:

Tim has asked Bill Austin to take the large planting plan and enlarge it, breaking it down into quarter scale in 6 parts so that we are able to create a planting plan that is legible-filling in the plant circles with specific plants. PHA has already ordered some plants and is growing them for us. He reiterated the need for car stops, so that cars are not allowed to pull into the rain gardens. Space will be allowed between the stops for drainage.

Irrigation: Only during a short time will these beds have standing water in them. They are designed to drain water quickly. Consider them as dry wells for most of the year. For new plantings and for on-going maintenance, some sort of irrigation will be necessary. We are thinking of soaker hoses, buried below grade that are used on an as needed basis. This should not trigger a loss of LEED points as

it isn't a "pop-up" system. Discussion about how to get the water to the beds, where the outside spigots are and the cost helped us realize that we should have an overall plan for what the beds are, what their watering needs are and where the hoses and pipes will go. Questions about whose scope of work this falls under; Nauset Construction? The landscape architect? Calling a local landscaper? There was the suggestion that the rain gardens (the front gardens in general) be considered a separate cost consideration, but the general feeling was that we need to get a handle on how much the landscaping will cost so we know whether or not we have to go out to bid, and how much the Foundation is willing to pay for. Beth will chat with Jen about whether or not the Foundation can be directly billed for landscaping costs and she will chat with Nauset about whether or not it is under their scope to lay pipes and dig the rain garden trenches.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30AM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st at 8:30 AM at the Town Hall. Linda will arrange for the space.

Respectfully submitted, Nelia Decker