

Building Committee

Landscaping sub-committee minutes

6/25/2013

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

Guests: Beth Kramer, Cheryl Doble, John Hoff

1. Minutes of the June 10th meeting were approved with one abstention.
2. Cheryl Doble was introduced by Tim Boland. She is a professor at Syracuse University and works with the Center for Community design research. She is willing to help us with our landscape design with the goal of creating spaces that are programmatically and stylistically in sync with our needs. Subtle adjustments to the landscape for fundraising events, gatherings and programs can be made at this point to enhance our offerings to the public. It is important to connect the front and the back areas of the Library, creating a flow along the sides of the building. She will also help us with interpretation and understanding of what we want to create with the back meadow (east side) in order to present a cohesive plan to the ConCom. We will make the area bordering that east side more attractive and include native species. We are aware of a rare plant in the NE corner and the need to remove invasives that are there. Tim has met with Lil Provence and Brian Loller towards this goal. There was a discussion of blue stone paths vs mowed paths in that area, as well as owl boxes, a hibernaculum and enhancing the habitat for native flora and fauna. Linda has concerns about any hardscape in the east meadow.
3. Discussion re: the north terrace: how the grade should be handled-terraces, stone as a retaining wall. John spoke of enlisting the aid of stone masons. The noise from the condenser needs to be considered for the east side of the building especially if considering a terraced seating area for outdoor programs.
4. Irrigation question for Patrick: what size sleeves are needed and where are they going to go in the front. John will find out.
5. Japanese knotweed: ½ the soil has been removed, more may be removed next week. There is still knotweed on the site, primarily creeping over from the lot next door near the Nauset trailer. We are planning to leave it in place and treat it soon. Ideally, it should be treated in mid July. Tim is going to contact Seth Wilkinson to come and give us an estimate. There is money set aside to treat it, as all wasn't spent on the sifting and removal. It could serve as a demonstration site on how to remove knotweed, as it is an island wide problem without a concerted effort to eradicate it. The Nature Conservancy will be looking into invasive species on the Island and how to handle their eradication.
6. Tim asked for a grading plan, Beth will drop it off at PHA. John also needs one, Beth will provide.

7. The former bus stop needs to be considered as a landscaping opportunity: an arbor with a tree and a bench would provide an attractive access from the street for pedestrians. John spoke about a shell path that would be naturally lit, leading people to the library. The pipes from the water suppression system will have to stay, rather than hiding them, we may consider keeping them more visible-helping people understand the design systems that have to be in place in a rural area. Laura is also considering the use of shrubs along the middle aisle.
8. Cheryl will meet with Beth and Nelia to discuss programmatic needs for the landscape. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday July 1, 8:30 at PHA. It will not be a full committee meeting so it does not need to be posted. The next full committee meeting is scheduled for July 8 at 8:30 at PHA. Cheryl will work on a rough sketch and a list of materials for the back area near the condenser.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30. Submitted by Nelia Decker