

# Landscaping Committee

## Meeting April 4, 2013

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

Guests: Cathy Brannen, John Hoff

Minutes of the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting approved.

**Roof run-off:** The architects said that the water on the south side will run to the back of the Library (the east side) through a gutter. It could flow into the ground, or onto a granite bird bath or into a rain barrel. The water from the north facing roof will also run into a gutter and run off the back side. We will think more creatively about how to use that water. Presently we are thinking rain barrels that will collect water for use in watering planters on the north terrace or on the south side. We do not want to ask the landscape architect to construct any kind of water containment system.

**Irrigation:** John Hoff shared his ideas and considerations with us.

- John will get a rough estimate of a barebones irrigation system. We may have a phased approach to allow for money to be raised and allocated over time. There is a huge costs savings to install irrigation and phase it out over time rather than spend money on plants that are lost and time on watering. The sense is that the irrigation system should be automated, not relying on staff to remember to water. The LEEDs points loss would be minimal. The plants getting established is the main goal, and watering them as needed the first few years is key. Also key is to slowly wean plants from needing water so that the roots grow deeper (especially in the bioswales) and less surface water is required.
  - Pipes laid 4 feet deep from the building/well to the beds where soaker hoses or solid pipe emitters will be installed.
  - The beds needing irrigation are the bioswales and the front center gardens. Probably any other beds that are installed would also need irrigation, as the key is to keep plants alive at the beginning and slowly wean them off of needing so much water.
  - The east side of the Library will be grass, with spigots positioned at the two corners of the far eastern edge, in Paula's memorial garden and the north eastern memorial garden. The pipes irrigating the "Vineyard lawn" could be shallow seasonal pipes. We realize the need to pass this by the ConCom.
  - Beth will be asked about the location of outside spigots.

- Linda and John will find out about the water pressure of the well we are using before we make the decision to cap the old well. The use of the old well in addition to using the new well could be problematic in terms of installing and maintaining a pump. Looking into the use of a de-acidifier was mentioned, John Clark of Island Water is the man to talk to. I don't know who was going to do that.

**Norway Maples:** discussion of tree removal schedule and concerns about work on the parking lot compromising the structural integrity of the tree roots for #3. PHA will volunteer to plant shrubs along the Field Gallery side of the Norway Maples to obstruct the view to the construction. These shrubs will also create a mid-range screen for when the parking lot is full of cars. Nelia had said that Chris Morse was agreeable to whichever plans will make that area more pleasing. PHA will come up with plans to show the plants and how they will act as a screen. The idea of bridging a path through the bioswale between the Field Gallery and the Library was brought up-a boardwalk with short pilings for guiding walkers. Tim will also draw up a plan for removal of #3 and #4, he will show it to Mike and John (Nauset) and we will go from there. We have concerns about the health of the trees and public safety if the roots are compromised.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at the Town Hall. John Hoff has been invited to present basic cost estimates.