

Landscaping Sub-Committee

Meeting April 1, 2013

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

Guests: Beth Kramer, Cathy Brannen

1. Minutes of the March 11 meeting approved.
2. Knotweed: dirt has been removed, sifted (material burned) and put back into place. It cost less than we had anticipated, but more money will be involved as the new shoots show up later in the season and have to be dealt with.
3. Rain Gardens (drought gardens): the trenching and dirt, along with some grasses will be installed by Nauset. Tim is going to ask them to substitute grasses that are on the plan with other grasses that are less weedy. There was a discussion about car stops: really clear wheel stops are needed before the tires hit the garden. The Building Co. knows it needs to be reintroduced. The north side of the northern rain gardens will probably be delayed in the planting so we can more clearly see and eradicate any knotweed shoots.
4. Irrigation: John Hoff has been asked to come to our next meeting to discuss options. It will be made clear that we will need to put this part of the project out to bid. Tim is proposing the use of underground pipes which are attached to soaker hoses. Using soaker hoses in the beds allows for less evapo-transpiration and will appear to the public as less water waste.
5. Water conservation: a rain barrel info sheet was handed around. The landscaping co. would like Linda to ask the architects again about the water run-off from the large roof surface. Currently it is slated to be channeled underground and not used. We are interested in seeing if it can be useful or decorative: watering plants, creating water features.
6. Garden sketches: haven't been completed yet. We are waiting for a more complete drawing that can be filled in by Laura Coit and Tim Boland. The garden on the north side has been done, though Tim would like to replace Yews with Clethra which like wet and dry conditions. Laura has mentioned swaths of color, particularly in the middle section with Panicum (dark leaf), other grasses and Butterfly weed.
7. Norway maple update: the town has taken responsibility to replace two trees that were removed: on the road and the tree in back of the Howes House. Linda may have to ask the Selectmen who are responsible to actually plant them. In the area where there are still Norway maples, viburnums will be used as a screen and intentional paths will be created. Beth will check with the Selectmen to see who has responsibility for pruning the largest maples. Tim can then check with Scott McCarthy about actually doing it. Linda will revisit the removal schedule for the maples.
8. East Meadow: The Conservation Commission will need to see a plan for it. The current thinking is to have a memorial Vineyard habitat in the opposite corner from Paula's garden. The plan is to have a crushed blue stone path that arcs through the native plants to a seating area. The State would need to sign off on that small corner as it is part of an endangered species area. It is a wetland area and needs to be protected. We actually plan to be improving it. Bittersweet is

growing there and needs to be removed. The Nature Conservancy is a natural partner in developing the east garden, supported by a donation from a family whose property is already managed by TNC. Brian Connolly and Tim Simmons will be in contact with us re: this part of the project.

9. Nelia offered to prepare a draft of the sequence of things that need to happen, landscaping wise before the project is completed. We will work on it as a committee.
10. Hibernaculum! Rocks and plants for animal winter hibernation, ie snakes.
11. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 5th at 8:30AM, we will meet with John Hoff.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30AM.