**NHPL LANDSCAPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 22, 2022. 10:08 am

Committee Members: John Bottomley, Lisa Cote, Dana Hooper, Audrey Prior

Chair: Emily Creighton; Trustee Representative: Kathleen Kilgore; Maintenance Manager: George Chauncey

Members present: John Bottomley, Lisa Cote, Audrey Prior, Emily Creighton

**\*\*\***Discussion of the Responsibilities and Duties of NHPL Landscaping Advisory Committee

Everyone at the meeting has a copy, understands our responsibilities and duties.

***I. Phase 1 – Assess Monitor and Maintain***

A. **Irrigation -**

**Action: George Chauncey and Mark Olson, Landwright, LLC –**

**UPDATE:** **George –** The Library has a schematic of the Sprinkler system. The system is on and working. Committee discussed the need to ensure the plants and trees are watered. According to George may need hoses for the trees.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Two hoses be purchased to ensure the trees in front, side and back sides of the building get enough water in the for at least two growing seasons. The committee will do their best to water initially, but volunteers are needed to maintain this activity.

B. **Hedges** – left side of patio

**Action: Committee, George Chauncey and Mark Olson –** Mark recommends we give the hedges a chance. He will, at his expense, do the initial fertilizing and watering, prune and mulch hedges the week of June 20th. Mark says the hedges should grow to 8 feet. **George** contacted John Hubbard, DPW about snow blowing the patio next year to protect the hedges and boxwoods from the snow and ice.

**Director Susan Grant** **and her staff** would like to see the hedges bordering the patio replaced. She forwarded photos of a possible replacement – a pencil point juniper.

**Discussion: Mark** says that snow and ice piled up against them didn’t help the hedges. They also need fertilizing as part of their maintenance. Which he will do as stated in the **Action** area for this item. He does not recommend arborvitae for the area because they will grow too tall. The pencil point juniper tree will need at least double the amount of trees to ensure privacy between them. If the hedges are to be replaced, he recommends not doing this until Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Give the hedges at least a year or two before replacing. If it is decided to replace them, we can replant them somewhere else on the property. We also recommend that someone be hired to care for and maintain the hedges, plants and trees. Mark O. estimates about $2K a year to do so.

C. **Boxwoods** in front and right side of building

**Discussion:** Who is responsible for fertilizing and trimming plants?

**Mark O. -**  Unless the plants are diseased and/or not developing properly, the Library is responsible for replacements and trimming. He estimates $200 to replace 3 current damaged boxwoods.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** We recommend that the boxwoods be replaced as soon as possible.

D. **Trees** **bordering** **Atlantic** **Ave (east and north end)**

**Action: Mark recommends** cleaning up these two corners – remove stumps and take down crab apple and black cherry tree on the east corner and the two black cherry trees on the north corner. Possible safety hazards as they hang over the Atlantic Avenue. He notes that north end trees are outside of Library’s property line so Town/DPW needs to be consulted.

**John** **B.** recommends we ask Knowles Tree Service to see if they would consider taking the trees down and stumps away for a reduced price as a donation to the new Library. If approved by the Trustees, John B. will coordinate with Knowles Tree Service. **Emily C.** will get clarification from the Trustees of whether the north end trees are outside of the Library’s property.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Committee recommends cleaning up the corners as soon as the funds are available.

E. **Rain** **Garden** **and** **Plantings**

**Discussion: Lisa C. and Mark O. –** Assess plantings

They recommend we wait for a season to see how they look.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Wait for a season and then assess plantings.

F. **Japanese** **Maple** **in** **Circle**

**Action: Committee and Mark O. –** As stated earlier, Mark will apply a granular fertilizer and water the week of 6/20/22

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Maintenance person/crew is needed to maintain the health of the tree.

G. **Utility Equipment Structure along** **Alden** **Road**

**Discussion: –** Consider a breakup of site line with possible tree plantings.  **Emily C.** briefed the Trustees at their 2/18/2022 meeting.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** If feasible, and when funds become available, we recommend tree plantings.

***II. Phase 2 - Spring Items***

1. **Conifer** **Christmas** **Tree** (type and placement)

**Discussion: Committee and Mark O. –** Mark suggested a dwarf Balsam 10-14ft to easily service with lights. Site walk was conducted for possible tree placements. Discussion of standing on the lawn in front of the rain garden back about 4-5 feet, centered on the electrical box on the patio wall and 4-5 feet across from the left of the walkway loop. Discussion was about how nice it would be to have the tree up with lights this year rather than 2023, but agreed that Trustee approval and funds were needed to do so.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Christmas tree be approved and funded for fall 2022.

1. **Patio** **Furniture** (five industrial tables and chair sets with umbrellas and covers

**Discussion: Emily C** briefed Trustees on the Trustees recommendation at their 2/18/2022 Trustee Meeting **Trustees** have ordered patio furniture and it should arrive any day now.

**John** discussed ordering patio heaters if the patio is to be used during fall, spring and possibly winter. During a coffee, **Emily** spoke with **Vicki Jones,** President of the Friends and **Cynthia Swank,** Treasurer about the possibility of purchasing planters of flowers for the patio and outside front of the Library doors. Vicki says all requests to the Friends must come from the Trustees and Director of the Library to be discussed and approved by the Friends. They could not commit the friends for watering and maintenance of planters. Vicki recommended soliciting resident volunteers for watering and deadheading flowers.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Consider ordering patio heaters and giving the Director the okay to ask the Friends about funding the purchases of planters for the patio and outside the front doors.

1. **Establish** a **Landscape** **Maintenance** **Fund**

**Discussion:** Can any left over fund raising money go towards a Library Landscape Maintenance Fund? Should the Library Director speak with the Friends about donating yearly to landscape maintenance? What specific landscaping maintenance DPW can do for the Library? **Dana H.** reported that the Foundation was positive and was researching. **Lisa C.** will contact UNH’s Natural Tree Stewart Program to see if we can get assistance for one of their North Hampton grads. We need watering volunteers!

**Recommendations to Trustees:** Discern what plant, hedges and tree maintenance DPW can do for the Library. Consider a landscape maintenance budget line item under Maintenance for 2024 budget. Consider utilizing Foundation fund raising money to establish a fund for plant, hedge and tree maintenance – fertilizing, pruning, etc. Have the Director and staff solicit volunteers for watering via a list posted at the Library; on the Friday Folder, Library website; to the mailing list of the NHPL Happenings and any other feasible method they can think of.

1. **Raised** **Planters** (how many; placement; planting and maintenance)

**Discussion: Audrey Prior –** Research raised planters and recommendations; **work with Lisa Cote** to help find volunteers to maintain TWO cedar 8 feet wide, self-watering planters in front of hedge on the patio; work with Children’s Librarian to develop a children’s planting program; research planter covers for winter months. At this time, they recommend we push the planting and the children’s program to Spring 2023. This is also a possible Library request to the Friends. **Mark O.** recommends we purchase self watering raised planters. **Audrey** says this type of planter has a reservoir that will need filling. Volunteers will be needed for the planters and any potted plants outside of the library. Again, help is needed to maintain plants.

**Recommendation to the Trustees:** Approve the above listed planters and the Children’s Librarian involvement. Use Foundation Funds or petition the Friends as funding sources.

1. **Mahoney** **Portrait** **Sculpture**

**Action: Emily, a Trustee Representative, Sean Mahoney, Mark O and Erik Durant**– Artist rendition, Dimensions and placement – Bench 18”x18”x54” Height of sculpture 49”(Picture a man & woman sitting on 18” bench) Sculpture installation date is Spring 2023.

**Discussion/UPDATE: Per May 26th site visit with Sean Mahoney, Erik Durant, Kathleen Kilgore, Susan Leonardi, George Chauncey and Emily Creighton - Mahoney Family Sculpture will be placed on the left corner in front of the rain garden.** This area is shaded and will keep the bronze statutes cool in the summer months. The sculpture will be placed at an angle on an oval platform to contrast with the environment - rain garden patio and the library building. **George Chauncey** will work with **Mark Olson and Erick Durant** to decide the appropriate size and materials needed to design and build the oval platform for the sculpture. **Mr. Durant** estimates that the platform should be ready for a **May/Jun 2023 (weather dependent) installation. Mr. Durant** also recommended we think about a possible slate walkway to make it easier for people to get to the sculpture. **Sean Mahoney** graciously announced that he will take care of the expense for the oval platform and installation.

**III. PHASE 3 – FUTURE ITEMS:**

1. **Sail Shade** connected to building –

**Discussion: Emily –** presented committee’s recommendation of a quality industrial, retractable shade at the 2/18/2022 Trustee meeting. Approval to proceed is needed to move forward on this item. **Mark** recommends a Lincolnville, Me Company a producer of sail shades as a possible source.

1. **Stone Wall**

**Discussion: Emily C.** presented (2/18/2022 Trustee meeting) the committee’s recommendation of a citizen’s petition or, to find a donor to repair the stone wall. **John** suggested George Chauncey for possible local stone wall builders so estimates can be obtained to present to possible donors. Because of the length of the stone wall, he suggested focusing on two segments of the wall. He also suggested communicating with the **Heritage Committee** about the history of the wall and whether repairs are allowable. **Emily** volunteered to contact the Heritage Committee to get a reading on what is possible for the Stone Wall.

Next: Meeting will be held Wed., Aug 24th, 10am

Meeting adjourned at 11:20am