

NHPL LANDSCAPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2023

Committee Members: John Bottomley; Lisa Cote, Dana Hooper, Audrey Prior; Emily Creighton, Chair; Kathleen Kilgore, Trustee Rep

Meeting came to order at 10:06am

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

- I.** Approval of Meeting Minutes:
May 25, 2023– Approval Motion made by Ms. Prior; seconded by Mr. Bottomley; unanimous
- II.** Committee reviewed Landscaping Action Items: See pages 2-3
- III.** Other Items that came before the Committee: See page 3
- IV.** Meeting adjourned at 10:41am with a walk of the grounds
- V.** Next meeting: Thursday, July 27, 2023, 10AM in the Library Reading Room

Minutes prepared by Emily Creighton

NHPL LANDSCAPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACTION ITEMS

June 29, 2023

I. Assess Monitor and Maintain

A. **Irrigation** – Sprinkler – Need to check with George Chauncey to ascertain if the sprinkler system is rain sensitive. With all the current rain, the ground looks saturated.

B. **Fertilizing Grass, Plants, and Shrubbery** - Ms. Creighton stated that Ms. Kilgore told her the plants and shrubbery have been fertilized. She also spoke with Mr. Hubbard about mulching the plants and trees. Mr. Hubbard said that they will mulch in July, as soon as their schedule allows. At the May 25th meeting, Ms. Kilgore mentioned that she would get a quote from Pascataqua Landscaping and Tree Service company and will present this information to the Trustees at their June meeting. She was not present for an update. At that same meeting, Mr. Bottomley also suggested Oceanside and A Stone's Throw Landscape companies. Today, Mr. Bottomley informed the committee that Pascataqua Landscaping was bought by another company. He again stressed that the Trustees focus on finding a local company. The committee members agreed. Ms. Cote said she will get a listing of local landscapers.

RECOMMENDATION: Contract with a Landscaping Company or Individual as soon as possible for the Spring and Fall preparations and cleanup. The committee will provide a listing of local landscapers.

C. **Yew Hedges** (left side of terrace) – Fertilize, water, trim, possible replacement

Ms. Cote said that she and Valerie Gamache, UNH Extension checked the health of the trees and plants. Ms. Gamache's only concern was with the Yew hedges; they are not native plants. She recommends that if they are replaced, it should be with native hedges. **Recommendation:** Committee suggests Trustees contract with a Landscaping company before replacing or adding trees to the landscape.

D. **Boxwoods** – Replace 2 boxwoods damaged by snowplow.

Status: Approved by Trustees

RECOMMENDATION: Have this work accomplished by future landscaper.

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

Status: DPW crew sprayed the poison ivy three times, dug up roots and placed bark mulch to the corner of Atlantic and Alden. Committee agrees that the area looks much neater. DPW will mulch trees, plants and trim the birch branches that are growing towards the building.

F. **Rain Garden and Plantings** – Fertilized and DPW will lay mulch around them this month.

G. **Japanese Maple in Circle** – **STATUS:** Fertilized

H. **Utilities along Alden Road** - Plant five closely staggered Arborvitae for screening.

Ms. Cote recommends that the Trustees speak with the Company who put in the AC and other units to weigh in on trees planted in front of these units before moving forward on this item.

Recommendation: Revisit once a Landscaper is under contract and, with unit installers weigh in on planting placements.

II. Spring Items

A. **Conifer Christmas Tree** - Town Project **Status: Item CLOSED**

B. **Landscape Maintenance Professional** – Estimated \$2K yearly

Status: The Trustees continue to search for a company to take care of the landscaping maintenance responsibilities to include weeding and monitoring during the summer, spring and fall preparations and cleanup and winter landscape damage mitigation. As stated in 1B recommendation – the committee will provide the Trustees with a listing of local Landscapers. Note that this committee is advisory only and do not have the authority to hire or discuss money with vendors.

RECOMMENDATION: concentrate on locally owned companies.

C. **Raised Planters** (planting and maintenance) – **Item on Hold**

D. **Mahoney Portrait Sculpture** – Arrives in NH from the foundry in Colorado first week of August 2023. Sean Mahoney; Erik Durant, Sculptor; Jason Kindstedt of Green Penguin Landscaping

Bench sculpture, 18"x18"x54" 4.5" thick Height 49" Oval Base: 5'x10"

Status: Sean Mahoney reports that the installation is still on track for first week of August. Jason Kindstedt, Green Penguin Landscaping will be staking the ground in the next couple of weeks so that we can see where the sculptures and bench will be located.

III. Other Items

A. **Special Thanks** -to North Hampton Boy Scout Troop 162 and their Scout Master Jonathan Holden for coming out to rake the Library's front lawn on June 10th.

B. **STEPS W/RAILINGS:** George Chancey's concern over the current parking overflow on Alden.

RECOMMENDATION: A traffic flow study in relationship to Library program needs during the entire Town Complex construction period

C. **NEW UTILITY POLE - Recommendation:** To prevent a safety hazard, the Town should ensure all holes are filled in, the ground mulched and landscaped with low maintenance shrubs and ground cover.

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