## NHPL LANDSCAPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUG 24, 2022. 10:00 AM

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

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

**Meeting came to order at 10:02**

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

I. **PHASE 1: ASSESS, MONITOR AND MAINTAIN**

A. IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Action: Emily Creighton, George Chauncey, Mike Castagna

**Discussion:** George C, Mike C. And Emily C. Conducted a check of the system and found drip hoses not working and two sprinkler heads in back of the Library not working properly. John Bottomley, Kathleen Kilgore and Emily Creighton watered the boxwoods, hedges and arborvitae until irrigation problems were resolved. Irrigation company was called and repairs were assessed- boxwoods had a cut irrigation wire; Arborvitae pipe was buried two feet underground and flattened like a pancake; installation of a soaker hose needed around Arborvitae facing Alden Avenue. It was noted that we need to monitor the soil erosion between the arborvitae and Alden Ave. John Hubbard was contacted and he and his staff are monitoring the situation. His staff is placing stone to form a small retention area to slow down the runoff. John said that a leaching catch basin may have to be installed if erosion continues.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** **TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Schedule yearly irrigation system check at the beginning of spring and perhaps mid summer to ensure the system is fully operational.

B. HEDGES - left side of terrace

**Discussion:**

Mark Olson fertilized & watered and, DPW mulched them.

Kathleen Kilgore reported that the Trustees will give the hedges two years to see how well they develop before assessing whether replacement is needed.

When asked about the decision of hiring someone to maintain the Library landscape, Kathleen stated that the Trustees decided to hire on an as needed basis.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Have a yearly landscaping maintenance plan developed by a professional. To ensure yearly landscaping maintenance is performed, decide who will be responsible for the plan to ensure when and what needs to be accomplished.

C. BOXWOODS - In front and side of Library building

**Discussion:**

Mark Olson fertilized & watered and, DPW mulched the Boxwoods.

Kathleen Kilgore reported that in the future the Trustees will have the Mainly Grass Company fertilize the trees and plants and, when needed, will hire someone to trim the Boxwoods.

Kathleen is also working with George Chauncey to decide on protection for the boxwoods during the winter. She mentioned the possibility of wooden Tepees to cover them and maybe have John Hubbard, DPW store them once the winter season is over.

Committee members discussed the possibility of staking the areas needing protection from snow plowing.

The Trustees okayed $200 to replace three boxwoods. When Emily contacted Mark Olson, he emailed that the cost is $200 for EACH boxwood ($600 total) or $400 total if replaced when the conifer Christmas tree is planted. Emily forwarded his email to the Trustees for discussion and a decision at their Sept meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Have Mainly Grass update their contract to include fertilizing the trees and plants.

Decide whether Tepees or another option will be used to shelter the boxwoods.

Approve or disapprove $600 to replace three damaged boxwoods this Fall **OR** $400 if the three damaged boxwoods are replaced the same time the conifer Christmas tree is planted.

D. TREES BORDERING ATLANTIC AVE (East & North ends)

**History:**

Mark Olson recommended cleaning up these two corners – remove stumps and take down crab apple and black cherry trees on the East corner and the two black cherry trees on the north corner. Possible safety hazards as they hang over the Atlantic Avenue

**Discussion:**

Kathleen K. Reported that the property, 239 Atlantic Avenue is the responsibility of the Library Trustees. Committee agrees that trees will not be taken down on the East side of Atlantic Ave. Tree shade is necessary to keep the Mahoney Family Bronzed Sculpture cool on hot sunny days. Committee agreed weeds need to be removed in these areas and to check on the possibility of removing the stumps.

John B. Is meeting with Knowles Tree Service to assess the condition of the trees on the North side of Atlantic Avenue, the possible removal of the east side stumps; and to obtain an estimate on this work at a reduced price as a donation to the new Library.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

None at this time.

E. RAIN GARDEN AND PLANTS (Monitor)

**Discussion:**

Lisa Cote reported that considering the drought, plantings look healthy. Mark O fertilized and, DPW mulched. Lisa recommends we assess the 2023 growth and decide whether more plants are needed.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Wait for 2023 rain garden plant assessment

F. JAPANESE MAPLE IN CIRCLE

**Discussion:**

Committee and Mark Olson – Mark applied a granular fertilizer and watered the week of 6/20/22. DPW mulched the area. Tree looks healthy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Ensure that the Maple is included in the yearly landscaping maintenance plan.

G. UTILITY EQUIPMENT STRUCTURE ALONG ALDEN AVE

**History:** Committee thinks a breakup of the site line with possible tree plantings. If feasible, and when funds become available, add tree plantings.

**Discussion:** Kathleen K. briefed us on the Trustees’ position - trees lessen the effectiveness of the utility systems and impact their filters’ effectiveness.

John B. informed the committee of posts on social media that mentioned there should be more plantings in this area to hide the equipment and the dumpster - possibly trees or a fence.

After the committee took a walk around the back of the Library along Alden, it was agreed that perhaps more of the same trees already planted near the utility equipment could be planted closer to Alden and, that there is enough space to add a three sided wooden fence to cover the dumpster without inhibiting it from being emptied.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Reevaluate trees being added closer to Alden and to hide the dumpster with a three sided wooden fence to match the fence along the parking lot.

**II. PHASE 2: FUTURE ITEMS**

1. CONIFER CHRISTMAS TREE

**History:** 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 terrace wall and 4-5 feet across from the left of the walkway loop.

Committee agreed that it would be best to wait until construction is completed on the old library.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Review Mark Olson’s proposal to plant the Balsam Christmas tree and to approve and fund for Spring 2023.

1. TERRACE FURNITURE AND PLANTERS

**History:**

John discussed ordering heaters if the terrace 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 terrace 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 planter watering and deadheading flowers.

**Discussion:**

Furniture is in place and looks inviting. Kathleen K reported that the Trustees decided that terrace heaters are an Insurance Liability.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Purchase at least one Fall planter outside the Library’s front doors.

1. ESTABLISH A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FUND

**History:** Can any leftover fundraising 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!

**Discussion:** Although the Trustees have decided to hire maintenance work on an as needed basis, there is still a need to ensure money is available to pay for services, A line item will ensure there is money in the budget while ensuring that other Library line items are not affected to pay for landscape maintenance. Lisa C is communicating with UNH’s Natural Tree Steward Program to get someone to quarterly or annually assess our trees to ensure they remain healthy.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE 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..

1. RAISED PLANTERS

**History:** 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 terrace; 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 Olson 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.

**Discussion:**

Audrey reported that she is waiting for approval of funds to purchase planters. She will have a program plan ready for Spring planting season next year, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Approve the purchase of two cedar self-watering planters.

1. MAHONEY FAMILY PORTRAIT BRONZE SCULPTURE:

**History:** 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.

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 statute cool in the summer months. The sculpture will be placed at an angle on an oval platform to contrast with the environment - rain garden terrace 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.

**Discussion:**

Sean M sent an email request for a site plan drawing that depicts the exact placement location of the sculpture as decided at the May 26 site visit.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Action on Sean Mahoney’s email requesting a site plan of sculpture’s location. Consider a slate walkway leading to the sculpture.

III. **PHASE 3 - OTHER ITEMS:**

1. SAIL SHADE CONNECTED TO THE BUILDING

**Discussion:** Kathleen K reported that the Trustees are researching a retractable awning for the terrace. Everyone thought it was a safe and perhaps a more realistic choice for that area.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE TRUSTEES:**

Back Channel Canvas (207) 439-9600 is a possible source for retractable awnings.

1. STONE WALL

**History:** 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 Commission about the history of the wall and whether repairs are allowable. Emily volunteered to contact the Heritage Commission to get a reading on what is possible for the Stone Wall.

**Discussion:** Donna Etela, Chair, Heritage Commission was contacted and agreed to place us on their next meeting’s agenda. John B agreed to attend the Aug 25th meeting and will report back.

Committee took a site walk to look at the area behind the Library along Alden Avenue.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30AM**

Next: Meeting: Wed., Sept. 21st, 10am