

Building Committee

Landscaping sub-committee meeting 7/8/13

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

Absent: Tim Boland, Barbara Day

Guests: Cheryl Doble, Hunter Moorman, Beth Kramer, Elen Deming, John Hoff

1. Minutes of the June 25th meeting were approved.
2. Knotweed: Seth Wilkinson, Nelia and Linda met and looked at the patches of visible plants near the construction trailer. He is going to give us an estimate of the cost to treat those plants, with the understanding that there are most likely more under the trailer and a very large patch next door, bordering the Library property. He plans to treat the plants in September, when their moisture content is lower and the treatment will be more effective.
3. Discussion of the 100 ft conservation zone. We reviewed the WPA Form 5-Order of conditions. We plan to go before the ConCom with a plan that basically consists of using native plants and grasses that grow naturally on the Vineyard. We would like to clear out the invasives and we understand that there is a rare plant that we need to protect. We would like to have signage that explains what is growing there and why.
4. Cheryl presented some ideas about how to handle the side and rear garden areas.
 - a. Off the children's porch is a natural gathering place, leaving open the area between the Field Gallery and the Library. It is flat and grassy.
 - b. The north side of the Library needs to lead into the back area, possibly through a path that connects a series of smaller gardens with visual cues that appeal to the walker to keep exploring. She presented the idea of keeping that north terrace a more open feeling, without a sharp embankment giving a closed in feeling. Retaining walls could be used as there is a slope down to the terrace from the Waldron property side.
 - c. Paula's garden would be able to be accessed with a mown path, and it would look out, away from the Library down toward the pond.
 - d. Little Alley's would be sited at the end of the fire access drive, sort of opposite the far south eastern corner of the children's porch.
 - e. A half moon terrace off the teen room would be accessible from the teen room, but not a dead end from the outside.
 - f. "The language of the materials" will create the spaces. In the children's play space, native rock inserted into a slope for seating and climbing, simple wooden stepping stones will be playful, safe and visually interesting. Overall, the ability to view the gardens from more than one vantage point is key. There will be a clear flow from the setting of the village and street entry to the Library itself, continuing to the back of the Library along the southern and northern gardens to the back gardens, buffered at the very eastern side by the Riverfront area with its natural plantings of grasses and native plants.

- g. Discussion of the noise from the condenser: it will sound like a fairly noisy dishwasher-a hum.
 - h. How to handle the transition from the 200ft buffer zone into the conservation area was discussed: going from hardscape to mown paths.
 - i. The small garden next to the handicapped ramp was discussed: a small shade tree and a bench tucked in, but not too far in, is another donor opportunity. We may want to look at how the Chilmark library handled their stone work.
5. Hunter reminded us of some grant proposals that are in the works and need to be honored. These involve the need for providing native habitat, interpretive signage and some teaching and demonstrative garden areas that are tied to programming.
6. PHA and the WTL Foundation are planning a series of talks with donors in August.

Our next meeting is scheduled for July 22nd at 8:30AM at the Cow Barn. Cheryl will set up a meeting with Beth, Nelia and her colleague who is a specialist in outdoor play spaces in the next few days.

Meeting adjourned at 10AM

Submitted by Nelia Decker