

Village Green Committee
July 21, 2020
Meeting held outdoors at the Mansfield Library at 1PM
Minutes

Present: Gail Cromwell, Connie Kieley, Robin Downes, Felicia Sartell, Carol Mamczak
Absent: Honey Hastings, Matt Cabana, Peggy Cournoyer

Gail called the meeting to order at 1:05PM. She noted that we were all wearing masks and were socially distanced.

Minutes of previous meetings:

Motion by Connie, 2nd by Gail to approve minutes of April 22, 2020

Vote: All in favor.

Motion by Connie, 2nd by Gail to approve minutes of May 5, 2020

Vote: Yes: Gail, Connie, Robin Abstain: Carol, Felicia

Library Landscaping – Gail explained how she saw in the library trustees’ agenda that they were meeting to discuss the landscaping around the building. She attended and offered the VGC assistance in designing a plan, and they accepted. Although we do not know exactly what they want, it had been mentioned by one trustee that a cottage garden might be an option. After discussing the current state of the gardens, we decided that our proposal should be based on simplicity to blend with the rest of the village and on the need for minimal maintenance. The VGC considered whether or not they want to take on the hill portion of the landscaping. It was noted that:

- The current garden is in disarray with the weeds taking over
- The garden was planted when the tall trees stood in front providing shade
- Not all current plants are suited for a sunny location
- The garden is difficult to maintain
- A cottage garden in front would be too much work and maintenance

After some discussion, it was felt that the library trustees would take care of the gardens directly touching the building foundation and the VGC would agree to take on the redesign and care of the hill. Robin pointed out that much of the building foundation gardens could be simplified by regular mulching after they are weeded and some plants removed. The library has money in their budget to hire someone to do the maintenance of foundation gardens.

Motion by Carol, 2nd by Gail to propose to the library trustees that the VGC take responsibility for initiating design changes to the hill garden area and implementing those changes to the landscaping with simplicity in mind.

Discussion – trustees will want to approve the proposed changes

Vote: All in favor.

A VGC proposal to the trustees will need VGC approval before the trustees meet next week on 7/29. *VGC members agreed to appoint Gail and Carol to develop a document and distribute to the VGC before a Zoom meeting. (action item)*

A few options for groundcover plants were discussed. Robin stated that Vinca that was offered by a resident would not do well there in the full sun. We considered what ground phlox and mat juniper such as Blue Rug would look like.

Daylilies – We have an offer from a resident of free orange field lilies to plant somewhere in town. We agreed that there are plenty of these lilies around town now and we don't need more. Also, they spread. *Carol will notify the resident that the VGC appreciates the offer but has decided to decline. (action item)*

Oak fertilizer – Our employee, Alan, has access to the injection fertilizer equipment and has offered to do a second dose on the scarlet oak for \$125. The timing was questioned since that fertilizer was just applied recently. *Gail will contact Alan regarding possibly doing it this fall or waiting until spring. (action item)*

Webworms – Gail reported that she had spoken with Kent about removing the webworms from our new Elm.

Other business – The VGC would like to point out that the hosta plants by the Town Hall will need dividing soon. This will be reviewed on the walking tour.

Walking tour of gardens – The following observations were discussed:

- There are a lot of iris plants to remove
- The Japanese Chrysanthemums on either side of the front steps look great
- The thyme is doing well
- There is some Vinca in various levels of health, Carol pointed out that Vinca minor is on the NH Invasive Watch List (not prohibit, just watch) and highlighted examples of its invasive behavior
- Felicia noted that the gardens are especially weedy because there was no Good Roads Day this year due to Covid
- Some of the existing plants are not suited to a full day of sun and should be removed
- Foundation gardens have some nice shrubs but are too crowded with all the irises
- Trees need pruning and suckers need to be removed
- A steel edging that Connie mentioned would work well on the foundation gardens
- A fair amount of vinca was found in the Town Hall garden
- Hostas are crowding the laurel; the laurel has recovered nicely

Motion by Robin, 2nd by Gail to adjourn at 1:50PM

Vote: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak
VGC Secretary