

Witherle Memorial Library

ad hoc Landscape Committee
Minutes July 2, 2024

Present: Marty Tenney, Jeff Ackerman, Karen Lyons, Nick Berry, Stefanie Scheer Young, Pat Dunham, and mid-way Roger Marks

Call to Order: 4:02 pm

Minutes: accepted with change from hard scanning to hard scaping.

Nick Berry report: Meeting with the planning Board may not be necessary since soil is not being brought in. He will check with Heather regarding the number of steps and the height.

Karen Lyons report: Shawn Blodgett came to a WML Trustees meeting and said he thought it a good idea to check into the cost of having the electrical lines underground by the Library and close by on Court St since work is being done. He hoped the Board will consider paying for the portion by the library. Stefanie Scheer Young gave some history regarding the part that was done earlier on the Common. There are three conduits in place already with the idea on having the lines underground.

Old business:

a. Changes to the design

The tent is considered a better way to provide a constant source of shade for library patrons with bricks for the ground cover. It will be a better quality tent that is made to stand up to use for 4 months a year, at least.

New business:

a. Review landscape renderings

The 3-D model hoped for was going to be far too expensive. We did get two visually appealing views of the grounds with plantings and people from the Common side and then another one from the Court St side.

b. Comments and concerns

They were numerous... Will the roots of the oak tree interfere with the neighbors driveway and also the stone wall? Some of the trees will get to be 35-40 feet tall and the oak 70 feet. Will these overtake the existing dogwoods? Will the building be obscured? Will there be irrigation? Can the scale be reduced, a lower profile in general would be better? Will the children's room have less light? What side of the generator will the fence be on? There are too many plants. Is there enough winter interest?

Next meeting date: Meet with Heather McCargo at 2 pm before the July 9th Public Forum at 3 pm.

Post Script: Heather was not able to be in Castine at 2 pm. The committee did not meet again since the public comment stage was over once the Public Forum ended. The committee was disbanded. There were however more comments from the public that were collected by Sarah Stammen.