

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk Sept.20, 2016 11:16am
09/13/2016 Minutes Town Green Revitalization Project Committee

Attendance: Tina Gossner, Joanne Nytch, Ona McLaughlin, Etzie Heyl, Tim Larkin, Bob Thody

1. Review Current Finances: Donations to date total \$30,083.47. In addition, the Durham Garden Club paid \$6,700 to cover the cost of the monument area renovation. Both Torrison Stone and RLI Electric charged us for materials only and donated the labor. A total of \$19,078.70 has been spent, including the Garden Club donation. (not including the town budget expenses) Scout Thien Wrang requested up to \$250 to cover the cost of an additional trash receptable. The committee approved this request but would like a smaller recycle bin. The monies from the America the Beautiful grant have been slow to arrive since the state has been having a hard time financially. The Board of Selectmen passed a resolution to accept the \$4,400 so the money should come through for the work this fall.
2. The committee discussed hiring a contractor in the spring to spray the new trees for gypsy moths and to care for the turf on the green (all organic). Tina will look into how to proceed. The Durham Fair will care for the green this fall. They use Country Landscaping. Tim will talk to Allan Poole re: best organic practices for the gypsy moths.
3. Three shrubs are needed to fill the small planting area within the monument space. The committee agreed to move forward on this with planting to happen this fall. Tina and Etzie will shop for the shrubs. (Joanne is an alternate.)
4. Update on Monument Area: During August, Torrison Stone completed the new stonework around the monument. The original placement of the 6 new granite benches was incorrect. Torrison moved the benches to the correct location. Pieces of glass were found in the soil around the monument. Torrison removed the top inch of soil and put down fresh soil. Bob Isleib (RLI Electric) removed the old bright floodlights for the area and replaced them with new low-energy use lights. He met with Tina multiple times to get the lighting correct. Committee members expressed concern that children were climbing on the monument during the farmer's market. Tina will email the farmer's market to express concern.
5. Pathway planning for spring: The committee plans to move forward on plans to install a pathway along Town House Road. The town has ruled out the use of bollards to separate the pathway from the road. We had approved a curb to be installed by the town but John Jenkins feels that it would end up being hit by plows in the winter. Tim suggested that we run a foot-wide strip of permeable pavers alongside the road and then place the pathway made of permeable material. Tina will look into options to present at the March meeting. Tim will check on the use of brick and patio base.

6. Map of electric on the green: Bob Thody volunteered to work with John Planeta to map out the underground electric on the green. Tina will check with Bascom and Benjamin surveyors to see what it would cost to have them complete a map of the green.

7. Dedication Ceremony: The next dedication ceremony will be held near Arbor Day in April, 2017. We will dedicate new trees and re-dedicate the veteran's monument.

8. Spring 2017 work: We will meet in March to determine the scope of the work on the green for next spring. Current discussion involved around removing any trees which have been over-pruned by the utility company. The elm trees and the pin oak are still fine. The committee will look at this in March and make a final decision. New trees will be planted in place of those removed. We will look at the triangle in the spring to see if some of the large traffic signs can be removed. This would involve changing traffic flow around the triangle.

Fall 2016 update: One large Maple tree was removed on the south end of the green. It had two trunks, rot in between the trunks and was starting to split. The removal was done by the town contracted tree service. Following the fair, more work will be done this fall. A small Cornus mas on the Northeast end of the green will be removed by the town crew. It was planted too deeply and suckers constantly. The town crew will remove a maple on the northwest corner of the green since it is over 50% dead. Nine new trees will be planted by the town crew. The trees were tagged at Northern Nursery last spring. Tina went up to check on them and had to re-tag three of them.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 5:00 PM, Durham Library

Submitted by: Tina Gossner