



# Landscaping Committee

## Doverbrook Association

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE**

Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Directors Landscaping Committee of The Doverbrook Association, was held on September 12, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the offices of Doverbrook.

#### **Committee Members Present:**

1. Ken White
2. Jessie
3. Douglas Lyman

#### **Also Present Were:**

N/A

#### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Ken White called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM, And Douglas Lyman recorded the minutes. A quorum of members were present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

#### **Report**

Ken White reviewed the agenda and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Next, Ken White discussed the current status of the Landscape Committee and its progress. A number of questions were asked and extensive discussion ensued.

#### **Adgenda 1:**

The Board of Directors recommended and approved a second opinion. On September 11, 2007 at 9:30 AM , a representative from Trees New England LLC provided a tour of the Doverbrook grounds to review the current landscaping and tree assessment; present as follows.

1. Trees New England LLC  
Melissa L. LeVangie, Certified Arborist  
214 Nichewaug Road  
Petersham, MA 01366  
P: 978.724.3307  
C: 413-221.8782  
[Mellissa@TreesNewEngland.com](mailto:Mellissa@TreesNewEngland.com)

2. Phil
3. Mary-Ann
4. Jessie
5. Douglas Lyman

Melissa LeVangie provided a discussion specific to the trees (crabapple and Maple), and the turf conditions at Doverbrook. Formal report to follow.

**Discussion:**

It was noted that previously Davis Nordstrom had provided a review of the trees and turf at Doverbrook:

David Nordstrom  
Associate Director of Student Services, Finance and Facilities  
Conway School of Landscape Design  
332 South Deerfield Road, P.O. Box 179  
Conway, MA 01341-0179  
P: 413-369-4044  
Email: [Nordstrom@csid.edu](mailto:Nordstrom@csid.edu)

**Discussion:**

Soils. It was noted that Melissa LeVangie was asked about the soil condition at Doverbrook. While it was noted that the soil was very sandy and without soil tests she would not be able to make a recommendation. It is thought that the organic material in the soil is not sufficient to hold water or nutrients in large areas of Doverbrook. This will have to be confirmed with testing.

**Discussion:**

Ken White stated that soil samples were taken in the past, and the records would be researched to find the data. If possible these samples could be used as a bench mark for future test and comparisons. Douglas Lyman suggested that soil samples could be evaluated by the Soils Lab at the University of Massachusetts for approximately \$50.00 each.

Question was raised as the advisability of fertilizing soil if in fact there is not enough organic material in the soil to hold the fertilizer. While this may not benefit the turf as greatly, increasing the nitrogen content of the soil as it is leached into the soil would help the maple trees. Fertilization of the maple

trees with nitrogen in the fall would be beneficial in the spring. The nitrogen would have to be dispersed with water to penetrate the ground. The question of using lime to treat the lawns was brought into question as there is no current soil testing as to the current soil Ph.

Ken White has contacted Albert's Farm in Deerfield in regard to the use of organic composting for fertilizer. Ken visited and spoke with Ralph. Ralph stated that the use of organic composting would take 3-5 years to achieve organic material levels in the soil where the composting would hold nutrients and water in the soil. At an acceptable level of organic material in the soil, watering levels could be reduced by 12-15% from our current usage rate is suggested.

Melissa LeVagie suggested that composting could be used up to a depth of 3 inches to cover the surrounding areas equal to at least the tree crown. It was extrapolated that in poor soil condition areas, both the maple trees and the turf could be mulched as well, however not at 3 inches. It was noted by Melissa that many of the maples were in decline by the loss of 50% of the crown cover. These trees will not die right away, but may linger for another 1 to 2 years.

Doug Lyman suggested that a land map be developed to record the number, location, and level of decline specific to the maple trees. In addition, the land map could be used to highlight poor soil or high concentrations of sandy soils. Doug Lyman will generate a site map for this purpose.

Discussion ensued whereby it would be possible to locate the highest concentration of maple trees (and maple decline) and develop a plan to increase organic material through composting, to increase nutrient value and increase water retention within the soil. This will benefit both the trees and lawns.

It was noted by Ken White that the sourcing and cost of the composted material would be very low, and that Brown Landscaping (sp) has the means and would be willing to spread the compost. Questions were raised as to whether the owners would be willing to spread the compost on their lawns if they wanted to themselves.

Organic content in the soil could also be increased by using a mulching blade when mowing, and not removing the clippings. It was also noted that landscape clippings are being collected and dumped at an expense. If this is the case, a composting pile could be developed on Doverbrook property for composting, thus reducing the cost of disposal and increasing organic content of the soil.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

Ken White will review the report from Melissa LeVangie from Trees New England, and present their finding along with findings and recommendations from the Landscape Committee.

Douglas Lyman reviewed a proposal submitted to the Board of Directors to develop a Doverbrook website, to be used initially for the Landscaping Committee to publish its finding to the Doverbrook Community at large. The proposal was for a hosted website at a total cost of \$10.00 per month.

**Approval of Minutes**

None.

**Next Schedule Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at Doverbrook Office.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ken White at 9:00 PM  
Respectfully submitted,

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Ken White, Chairman