



Landscaping Committee

Doverbrook Association

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Directors Landscaping Committee of The Doverbrook Association, was held on September 18, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the offices of Doverbrook.

Committee Members Present:

1. Ken White - Chairman
2. Jessie Reid
3. Paul Rodgers
3. Douglas Lyman

Also Present Were:

N/A

Call to Order:

Chairman Ken White called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. Ken White discussed the current status of the Landscape Committee and its progress. A number of questions were asked and extensive discussion ensued.

Agenda 1:

Project: Conway School of Landscape Design

Discussion:

Chairman Ken White read an email from Trustee Lori (sp) in regards to the recommendation to utilize the Conway School of Landscape Design for planning. The Board of directors voted not to fund this project.

It was noted by Ken White that the Landscaping Committee had not yet finalized the details of the project for the Board of Trustees review prior to the vote, and expressed the opinion that the Board did not have all of the information and had acted prematurely.

Jessie Reid stated that her opinion was that the Board was not listening to the Landscaping Committee. General Discussion ensued.

After discussion, the Landscaping Committee decided to have Paul Rodgers contact Davis Nordstrom from the Conway School of Landscape Design and let them know of the Board of Directors decision not to fund the project.

The Committee also decided that even though the proposed project was not funded, to have Paul Rodgers discuss with David Nordstrom, the possibility of restructuring a proposal for the Spring of 2008 that would better fit the needs of Doverbrook to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors.

Discussion:

Report to the Board of Directors:

Ken White recommended that the Landscaping Committee present their tentative findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Trustees Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007.

Douglas Lyman asked the Board of Directors for, and received permission, to have the Landscaping Committee as an agenda item for the September 26, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting. The Board recommended that the Committee meet earlier at 5:00 PM, as the meeting is scheduled as an open members meeting.

As such, there will be a meeting of the Landscaping Committee with the boards of directors scheduled for September 26, 2007 at 5:00 PM at the Doverbrook offices, to present to the Board the tentative finding and recommendations of the Landscaping Committee.

Discussion:

The Committee is awaiting the report by Melissa LeVagie from New England Trees, as to her observations and recommendations for Doverbrook. As soon as the report has been made available, the Committee will meet and review the report, on the next scheduled meeting Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed at length the priorities for Doverbrook at this time. The Priorities in order are:

1. The Maple Decline
2. The Crabapple Blight
3. Turf management
4. Tree replacement

Maple Trees

The Committee reviewed at length the options. The Committee viewed the maple decline as the top priority for several reasons.

One, actions can be taken immediately to potentially reverse the decline, which will take several years or more to accomplish.

It was noted by Melissa that Maple Trees with a reduction in 50% of the crown will probably die within 1 to 2 years. Maple trees that have greater crown cover will probably survive 3-4 years if no action is taken.

The committee noted that most of the maple trees with a crown cover of 50% or less will die within 1-2 years.

The committee noted that maple trees with a reduction of 30-40% crown cover may live between 2-4 years at the current decline rate.

The committee notes that in general, maple decline can be reversed with two known remedial treatments, and they are fertilizer and watering.

Priority: Fertilize the maple trees starting as soon as possible. Fall fertilization will benefit the maple trees in the Spring. Watering for the fall will be through normal rainfall and snow cover. This can be accomplished in two ways.

One: Fertilize with high nitrogen concentrations directly around the maple trees extending out from the base to a distance equal to the crown diameter. Fertilizing with high nitrogen and watering will have the fastest impact on Maple decline in the short term.

Two: Fertilize with an organic material, compost, directly around the maple trees extending out from the base to a distance equal to the crown diameter. Fertilizing with organic compost is a better longer term solution. The benefit of the organic compost is that it will fertilize the soil as well as increase organic material in the soil. The increased organic content will develop better soil structure, and will retain moisture content in the soil better. This means less watering.

Three: Removal. An assessment of the number of maple trees that are expected to die can be assessed over a 1 to 3 year period for budgeting purposes. Instead of removing each tree as it occurs, it is possible to make an assessment, and make arrangements for all of the trees to be removed over a one to 3 year period by contractors who would remove the dead trees in exchange for the wood; thus eliminating the cost of removal. In addition, stump removal could be contracted at a lower price based on the estimated quantity to be removed.

Priority: Use organic composting to increase Soil Structure.

Melissa noted that the soil is very sandy. In general however, the soil is very compacted mostly because of the lack of organic material in the soil. Without organic material, the soil will not retain water and will not support insects and worms. These are two natural processes that aerates the soil naturally. Additional factors include compaction from foot traffic and heavy equipment.

One: Spread organic compost material on soils that are identified as having low organic material. This includes areas where there are maple trees.

Two: Increase organic material on soils by mulching the lawn instead of bagging and disposal. This will increase organic material in the soil immediately.

Discussion:

Ken White noted that the budget allowed approximately \$17,000 this fall for fertilization and Lime.

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.

Priority:

Crabapple Trees

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

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 25, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Doverbrook Office.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ken White at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ken White, Chairman