

HEBRON COMMON LANDSCAPING & PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

MEETING DATE: 3/9/23 PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Fred Kohout, Chair; Garry Lahey; Mavis Brittelli; Paul Falzarano; Barbara Kohout, Secretary;

Meeting Guests: Rich and Debbie James, Suzanne Smith, Everett Begor, Stacy Darlington

Public Meeting called to order at 5:02pm; A slide presentation was used to guide the meeting.

Minutes 2/9/23 – Approved

The Hebron Common Landscaping and Playground Committee (“Committee”) is addressing the following Charge of the Hebron Select Board:

- Assist with placement of new trees & shrubs and trees that need to be removed or trimmed
- Landscaping design plan for the front of the Town Office Building
- Wellhead – feature over to disguise and prevent vehicles from backing over or driving into
- Location of Playground & Bocci Court
- Gazebo repair or enlarge to 20 ft
- Location of picnic tables and park benches
- Create a common that could be used and enjoyed by everyone and still accommodate the Hebron Church Fair and other events

The Committee completed a full review of the 2016 Inventory of Trees on the Hebron Common. An updated 2023 Tree Inventory is attached and can be summarized as follows:

- Eleven (11) trees are missing from 2016 Tree Inventory
- Three (3) new trees have been added:
 - Pin Oak (19a);
 - Elm (25a);
 - Flowering Crab (15a)
- Three (3) diseased trees need to be removed
- Propose up to nine (9) new trees (to be selected in the Summer and planted in the Fall)
 - White Paper Birch, NH State Tree
 - Red Maple
 - Scarlett Oak
 - European Beech
 - Pin Oak
 - White Kousa Dogwood

Garry commented that a Clump Birch although beautiful is more likely to bend and break considering the typical tree growth with leaning branches. As a result it was removed from consideration. The large loss of eleven (11) trees in six years may be attributed to tree stress in such an open Common area. Salt, snow, draught and pedestrian pressure on roots could also be contributing factors. The loss of so many trees in the 6 years since 2016 suggests more attention to the health and wellness of the trees and landscape is needed. New trees and shrubs should be considered regarding drought tolerance.

The Committee is coordinating with the Hebron Fair and Gazebo Committees for the location of new trees. Stacy Darlington and Everett Bigor were present and commented on specific locations and need for more shade. Stacey mentioned that placement of some larger booths for the 2023 Fair have been moved from the 2022 Fair design. Suzanne Smith commented that plantings should not take up too much room on the Common to allow for Events. Everett commented that new Memorial trees should have a plaque according to Hebron Town specifications and suggested that all new trees should have approval by the Select Board and be on record.

Septic System & Wellhead. As a result of discussions with the Hebron Fair Committee, it was decided to recommend shrub plantings to prevent parking or driving on septic system areas. A substantial stone structure was also recommended for the wellhead, a design for which is being researched, and will be coordinated with the Historic District Committee. It was pointed out that fertilizers and pesticides should be limited to adhere to the DES Sanitary Protection radius of 75ft setback around the wellhead. Participants also commented that fertilizers should be free of toxins and phosphorus considering the public will be walking and sitting on the grass.

New ornamental trees and shrubs were discussed for the front of the Town Offices. The design (copy attached) is under development and will be expanded to include plants to protect the septic system. The shrubs and plants include the following:

- Japanese Thread Leaf Maple
- Dappled Willow
- Annabelle Hydrangea
- Red Twig Dogwood
- American Boxwood
- Hostas

Mavis suggested adding two (2) Boxwood shrubs at the entrance pathway to the Town Offices. It was noted by Debbie James that the American Boxwood grows faster and with a bigger leaf.

Discussion of Gazebo plans for repair or replacement were reviewed by Paul with the following considerations. Due to the cost estimates for a new Gazebo ranging from \$22K-\$33K it was decided that a warrant article would be necessary and a decision postponed to 2024.

- Gazebo repair: Cost estimate - TBD from Merrills, Ethiers, or other local contractor(s)
- New 20 ft Gazebo Design Considerations:
 - Level: at ground or above ground?
 - Circle pavers or wood floor?
 - Include benches
 - Two (2) entrances
- Cost Estimates: Amish Country Gazebos, Reeds Ferry and Fifth Room, Inc.
- Site preparation cost estimate (TBD)

A larger 20ft Gazebo was discussed considering the old Gazebo is in disrepair and a larger one may allow for greater use and feasibility. Stacy Darlington commented that a new larger Gazebo would be welcome and utilized during the Hebron Fair. Everett commented that a new bigger Gazebo may not be necessary and noted that the Bands at the Gazebo Concerts often prefer to set up outside the Gazebo, although a tent has normally been provided; just the drummer typically sets up inside the Gazebo. Mavis suggested that she has some cedar shakes to donate if the roof repair is warranted. HCLPC will contact the Este Family regarding Gazebo planning considering they donated the original Gazebo in 1996.

Markers and Monuments review needs coordination with the Historic District Committee. The 1976 Bicentennial brass marker plate needs replacement.

Playground: The old playground included swings, climber & basketball hoop. Further consideration for target population ages, location and type of equipment needs to be decided. Safety and insurance issues requires further study and must follow Federal Safety Guidelines. A new playground is likely to require a warrant article in 2024.

Project Timeline

- Phase I: 2023
 - Town Common Shade Trees
 - Ornamental Shrubs & Plants
 - Ongoing Common Maintenance Plan
- Phase II: 2024
 - Repair or replace Gazebo
 - Well Head Structure/Cover
 - Playground location and design

2023 BUDGET PROPOSAL

TREES & SHRUBS

- Removal of 3 trees: Cost Estimate by TLC: \$1500
- New (8) shade trees @ \$500-600 each \$5500
- New Ornamental Trees & Shrubs: \$1000

<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>	<u>\$8000</u>
------------------	---------------

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

- Lawn Fertilization/Disease Control \$3000
- Tree Fertilization/ Disease control \$2000
- Maintenance trim & replace trees \$2000

<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>	<u>\$7000</u>
------------------	---------------

The Committee discussed the budget with modifications. It was decided that the Hebron Common landscaping recommendations for the trees and shrubs should be funded from the Hebron Common Land Trust; the Annual Maintenance should be funded from the Annual Hebron Town Budget. The amounts should be increased considering inflation costs.

Meeting ended at 6:13pm

Next Committee PUBLIC HEARING: 4/6/23

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kohout, Secretary
Hebron Common Landscaping and Playground Committee

Attachments.

2023 Updated Tree Inventory

Preliminary Design of Ornamental Shrubs and Plants

Hebron Common Tree Survey 11/15/22

Tree List #	Description	Found(Yes/No)	Circ. (In.)	Cond'n(Ex/Gd/Fair/Poor)	Rec.(Hold/Keep/Trim/Fert)	Comments
1	Flowering Crab	Yes	N/A	Gd	Keep	
2	Flowering Crab	Yes	N/A	Gd	Keep	
3	Sugar Maple	Yes	31"	Ex	Keep	
4	Red Oak	No				
5	Red Maple	Yes	99"	Ex	Keep	
6	Pin Oak	Yes	54"	Ex	Keep	
7	Sugar Maple	No				
8	Sugar Maple	Yes	34"	Ex	Keep	
9	Eastern White Pine	No				
10	Sugar Maple	Yes	77"	Poor	Remove	
11	Red Maple	Yes	101"	Ex	Keep	
12	Sugar Maple	No				
13	Sugar Maple	Yes	85"	Gd	Keep	
14	Norway Maple	No				
15	Sugar Maple	Yes	71"	Fair	Keep	
16	Sugar Maple	Yes	40"	Poor	Remove	
17	Rhododendron	Yes	N/A	Ex	Keep	
18	Norway Maple	Yes	26"	Poor	Remove	
18a	White Redbud	No				
19	Sugar Maple	Yes	28"	Gd	Keep	
20	Sugar Maple	Yes	75"	Gd	Keep	
21	Ash	Yes	37"	Ex	Keep	Donated to Hebron by NH Electric Coop Arbor Day 1993
22	Tree Removed	No				
23	Sugar Maple	No				
24	Norway Maple	Yes	42"	Gd	Keep	Planted and Dedicated 1976 to James Goold First Settler Rev War Vet
25	Common Lilac	Yes	N/A	Ex	Keep	
26	Flowering Crab	Yes	N/A	Gd	Keep	Sap Sucker Damage
27	Sugar Maple	N/A		?	Disregard	West side of West Shore Rd.
28	White Spruce	N/A		?	Disregard	West side of West Shore Rd.
29	White Spruce	N/A		?	Disregard	West side of West Shore Rd.
30	White Spruce	N/A		?	Disregard	West side of West Shore Rd.
31	White Birch	No				
32	Red Maple	Yes	24"	Ex	Keep	Retained Red Leaves
19A	Pin Oak	Yes	6"	Ex	Keep	?
25A	Princeton Elm	Yes	10"	Ex	Keep	?
15A	Flowering Crab	Yes	2"	Ex	Keep	?

HEBRON TOWN OFFICES

GENERATOR

LAMP

UTILITY POLE

PARKING LOT

SCALE
1" = 10 FT

JAPANESE THREADLEAF MAPLE (JTM)
ANNABELLE HYDRANGEA (AH)
RED TWIG DOGWOOD (RTD)
HOSTAS (H)
DAPPLED WILLOW (DW)
WEGELIA PLANTED (4W)
AMERICAN BOXWOODS (B)

