

WOLFEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE MEETING

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

BRADLEY ROOM

Wednesday, September 30, 2021

The Public Presentation of the Conceptual Design began at 6:34 p.m.

In attendance were Joyce Davis, Dave Ford (virtually), Deborah Long-Smith, Susan Poirier (virtually), John Sandeen, Cindy Scott, Doug Smith (virtually), Sabat Stroman, and Nancy Bell (virtually). Virtually present from Horsley Witten Group was Brian Laverriere, Designer and Brian Kuchar, Lead Architect. Also present were several abutters and members of the public.

The minutes were tabled.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Powerpoint presentation by Horsley Witten Group

Brian Laverriere greeted everyone and gave an overview of the meeting.

The powerpoint presentation was designed to show the scope and schedule of the landscape project. The first phase was information gathering which took place in August and September. The conceptual design, phase two, was scheduled for October and the public presentation completes this phase. The final design phase runs from October through December and includes the Final Concept, Stakeholder and Community meetings, and Construction Documents.

Some of the areas addressed include improvement of curb appeal and sense of arrival, outdoor space for Library programs, and managing invasive plants. Considerations are being made of the constraints on the site. Opportunities presented by the site include green space, circulation of patrons, the gathering spot, sun and shade and materials already present.

In space in front of the library will be a formal area with flowering perennials and ornamental grasses which will transition into the middle section and then into the wetlands. Connectivity will be implemented as an important aspect. In reviewing the framework the final concept is a blend of the three previously presented designs to come up with the final rendering.

The design rendering shows a colorful perennial garden in the front of the library (bordering Main Street). The flagpole will be placed in the central median near the main entrance to the library. The center island will be planted with perennials and grasses. A walking path will be designed around the wetland areas with educational signs. The cow path will also be addressed with educational signage.

Landscape Style: The Perennial Garden will be 75% to 85% perennials and 15% to 25% ornamental grasses. Perennials will also be planted in adjacent areas. Granite edging will be used along the perennial gardens in front of the library. The parking islands will be a mix of perennials and grasses. Ornamental grasses will be planted along the back side (Public Safety Building area) of the building.

The current ramp enhancement for handicap access at the main entrance of the building will be improved and the existing handicap parking space in front of the building will be moved. Discussion about snow removal resulted in Dave Ford and Horsley Witten agreeing to more in depth planning on how to best protect both plants and sidewalk areas.

Buffer restoration will include supplemental plantings as needed with low mown grasses being kept to a minimum. It was pointed out that the need to choose plants that are drought tolerant and with an ability to adapt to climate change is important. Structure shade trees will be planted along areas of the parking lot. Attention will be given to storm water runoff direction.

The outdoor classroom/amphitheater will be created using granite which is on hand provided by the department of public works. Ornamental grasses will be planted in the area behind the classroom to help to maintain a quiet space. Storm water management as a pretreatment area would make maintenance easier to conduct and help to protect the landscape.

The design should be available by the middle of November. David Ford will provide input to make sure that maintenance works.

Upcoming Meetings

The Stakeholder Meeting will tentatively be held on Wednesday, November 17.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Bell

Minutes are unapproved until voted on by the Landscaping Committee