

Meeting held Oct. 8

In attendance: Carolyn Hollenbeck, Peggy (Margaret) Bowditch , Isabel Mancinelli, and Val Libby

Members absent: Julie Leisenring, Lois Stack and Carl Kelley

Committee members received copies of the garden notes from Kathy Van Gorder and maintenance notes from Tom McIntyre to review. These will be checked with the position descriptions and adjustments made in both the position descriptions (to be updated in March) and the note taking to ensure the essential information is documented and work that needs to be done is completed. In general the notes seem good but more specificity is required such as observations of when and how plants, such as the Clematis montana, start to wilt or decline, and what types of fertilizer were used and in what quantity. Other notes are superfluous, such as observations about the Phoebes nesting.

Several items of note:

Surry Gardens no longer has room to store the potted rosemary plants in their greenhouse for the winter. Once the temperatures start to drop Tom will move them into the house for the winter. They will be placed on plastic boot trays and Dick Mace or Carolyn will water and rotate them as necessary. The 55 degree temperature and indirect light should be fine for them to overwinter. In the spring they will be cut back, both foliage and roots, and returned to the pots used last year which are closer to the correct scale for these plants.

On the advice of Karl Holmes from Kenarden, the roses will stay in place and be covered with Styrofoam cones that Isabel will purchase from Brown's in Northeast Harbor. These will not be placed over the roses (along with some rotted compost mulch) until the ground freezes (to avoid rodents taking refuge in the cones). In the meantime the roses are not to be cut at all to avoid moisture loss. The surviving roses in the holding garden will receive the same care.

Kathy and Tom will put the deer fence up around the terrace garden and the burlap around the beds as they did last year, likely by the end of October. This procedure was very effective especially in protecting the heathers from wind damage. Tom will also cut boughs for snow protection and he and/or Kathy will place them as they did last year.

We checked with the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden about their procedures for protecting their statuary in winter. They remove all statues that are portable and only cover the very large ones that cannot be moved such as the golden Buddha which is covered with a wooden box and left in place. We decided it was advisable to bring the statue in for the winter for several reasons including protection from possible theft. The details of how this will be accomplished were discussed but not resolved. It was suggested perhaps we should hire professionals however others felt between Tom and Dick we could move it in house. The board may want to weigh in on this decision.

The two terrace garden bird baths will stay in place and be covered with the wooden lids provided by Lunaform. The one at the entrance needs a similar lid which Carl Kelley will make for us. The vergeboard fence at the entrance garden will be covered by a tarp for the winter (not a blue one).

There are several issues with the holding garden:

The level of maintenance, especially the weeding, was less than satisfactory this summer. Also the general unkempt appearance of the adjacent vegetable garden detracted from the area. The committee decided the vegetable garden fence is to be removed and the area reseeded with grass. Tom will be informed of this decision and asked to take care of it. Strategies were discussed for the holding garden to improve its overall appearance and clarify its purpose. Carolyn reported that at the Thuya Garden they use shredded leaves as winter mulch for their perennial beds and then just turn it in in the spring. The committee thought this procedure should be followed for both the holding garden and some plants (but not all) in the terrace garden.

In the past volunteer days, as organized by Caroline Felkel, were very effective ways of keeping up with the weeding. The committee suggested these be reinstated, with the gardener and grounds keeper present to participate.

Non historic and surplus plants should be removed next summer and perhaps offered to visitors with a donation box beside them. The property has been sampled twice for fire ants and both reports were negative. A detailed map of what is in there and where needs to be maintained by the grounds manager and/or gardener.

Other items of note are Carolyn has completed the list of Rhododendrons based on information provided by Mary Roper. These will be keyed to a map for Open Day docents.

Peggy is looking into seed sources for some terrace garden plants (*Centaurea americana*) and has spoken with Bruce of "Garden Fonts" about label options for the trees and shrubs. The committee was asked to consider suitable plants that may have to substitute for the *Delphinium grandiflorum* in the terrace garden which struggles to survive.

Carolyn donated small white plastic labels and a special pen to label plants in the terrace garden and holding garden for the winter. These will replace the wood shims. The labeling helps identify plant locations in early spring. The plastic labels can have the names and other information written on them and then be partially buried beside the plants. They are not intended to replace the Garden Fonts labels. Carolyn also has agreed to do the winter ordering of new plant material for the terrace garden.

Brenda continues to do a wonderful job caring for the woodland garden. We hope to obtain copies of all the work she has done documenting the entrance garden so it will be available in the archives.

Abigail Parker, our winter intern, has met with Marti Harmon and expressed interest in helping with any winter projects the committee might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel Mancinelli