

Report Garden & Grounds Committee meeting - 14 August 2012
Attending: P. Bowditch, M. Harmon, V. Libby, I. Mancinelli

Recommendations on Landscape Issues:

1) Have Tom regrade the driveway which has sunken so low that water pools in it and turns to ice in winter. This can be done when visitation is less. He will also work on improving drainage in the parking field & lower the drain pipe.

2) Install birdhouses at agreed upon locations. Have some bluebird boxes made for the field. Tom will be able to do this using posts provided by Brenda.

3) The committee discussed the excellent job Brenda is doing with this garden and the Entrance Garden. It was felt that obvious weeds in the Entrance Garden should be removed to improve visitors' impression.

4) Remove mature spruce near greenhouse. This was agreed upon at previous G&G meeting.

5) The banks below the Terrace Garden should receive attention. Tom has already been working on clearing the invasives off them. Every effort must be made to retain the rose shrubs. Decided to have vegetation on the West & South banks cut back. If woody plant stems were painted with herbicide it would help clear them permanently. Tom can do the herbicide work if a licensed applicator is present. He will talk to Bill Guess about timing this.

6) The East bank below the terrace (location of roses facing the road) has become overgrown with equisetum. Isabel will discuss its removal with Lois. It also seems desirable to put a permanent edging below the Terrace Garden fence to prevent equisetum from growing into the garden. Use of slates was discussed.

7) Mow meadow once a year. Timing of mowing left to Tom's discretion, probably best done in the spring.

8) Have Eagle Arboriculture apply another spraying of herbicide to bittersweet in the Fall.

9) Communication with Tom on landscape jobs should go through the committee co-chair, Isabel, as she is closest to site. This is to avoid confusion over who is doing what.

10) Discussion of whether the Terrace Garden could be weeded by volunteers from this committee.

The committee further recommends retaining the services of Kathy Van Gorder to care for the Terrace Garden and Holding Area. She has worked with Carolyn for 3 years on site, she has the skills and knowledge to continue to do an excellent job.