

Minutes of the Garden Committee, 26 September 2012

Present: Val Libby, Peggy Bowditch, Marti Harmon, Brenda Les, Tom McIntyre

1. Val suggested that we need to establish a budget for the coming year to cover mowing, arborist work, plant replacements, the gardener and grounds manager salaries. This amount is approximately \$20,000 based on last year's costs.
2. The culvert work has been approved by the board.
3. The driveway project is not yet approved – Tom McIntyre must make an estimate with details and have Isabel review his plans for the Executive Committee to decide on.
4. Decision-making for gardens & grounds is between Val, Carolyn, and Isabel. Tom's communications should go to all three.
5. The birdhouses will be set up according to visual images from the 1950's – two in the “holding field” one near the bush from Reef Point, one near the SW corner of the barn. Tom volunteered to make Bluebird houses for the field.
6. Removal of the large spruce at \$1350. is too expensive at this time.
7. There is a preference to remove the debris piles, not burn them. There is both a safety and an image problem, plus, Parsons sometimes takes the piles for free.
8. The question of the overhanging oak branches is tabled for now.
9. Pesticide application will be done by Bill Guest with assistance from Tom McIntyre.
10. Discussion of Kathy van Gorder's status as an independent contractor still pending. She needs to fill out the Independent Contractor forms.
11. The Holding Garden has created a management problem. Carolyn suggested closing the garden or getting volunteers to work there. The decision was for the Garden Committee to manage it. Brenda has agreed to take it on for next year with help from volunteers.
12. Do we need or want a vegetable garden in the space beyond the Holding Garden? Tom would like to take it on in his own time, if he can use the equipment at Garland Farm. Some of the produce will go to a food bank on MDI.
13. Tom will dig up and pot up the Laburnums that have established themselves in the Entrance Garden. As they have developed on their own, their roots may be tangled and not all may survive transplanting.
14. Val will oversee the return of the two rosemary plants to Surry Gardens where they will overwinter and serve as stock plants for Jim Dickinson. We'll have them back in place for the season next year.
15. The banks surrounding the Terrace Garden are all in need of attention. On the bank nearest Route 3 there is an ongoing problem with Equisetum. Tom is working to discourage this invasive plant while encouraging the roses to sucker and cover this area. On the adjacent bank next to the meadow there are volunteer cherry trees. We'll wait to see if these are weedy cherries or perhaps some regrowth of the original Farrand plants. On the bank facing the barn we are working to encourage roses and eliminate other plants.
16. Seedlings of the large Black Locust have been found by Brenda and Tom. We'll take care of these small plants.
17. Nobody knows who arranged for the A.C. Parsons Co. to come here and spray and mulch the *Cornus florida* given to us by the Garden Club of Mt. Desert. Tom would like to be informed when such work is to take place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valencia Libby