

## Landscape and Garden Committee Meeting July 23, 2013

**Present:** Isabel Mancinelli, Margaret P. Bowditch, Lois Berg Stack, Julie Leisenring, and Carolyn Hollenbeck (Executive Committee Representative)

**Absent:** Val Libby

It was agreed that the major priority of the Landscape and Garden Committee is to ensure we have adequate documentation to maintain the Terrace Garden, now that it has been restored, no matter who is responsible for that task in the future. What is needed now is a month by month maintenance schedule which can be gleaned from notes that have been maintained over the past several years. We discussed the possibility of having an intern enter those notes onto a computer and go through them to develop a month by month guide for future gardeners and oversight by the committee.

It was requested that a list of committee members and job descriptions for the gardener and grounds keeper as well as their weekly notes be made available to each committee member. It was also suggested that the Terrace Garden be photographed on a regular basis.

Other documentation considered essential are the records of the Rhododendrons Mary Roper identified and took cutting from. Carolyn agreed to transcribe notes taken by Kathy VanGorder in 2011 and will draw their location on a map she of the Entrance Garden. We discussed having a notebook available on site with pertinent information including historic photographs for reference. Some historic photographs of the Terrace Garden are already available in the "Restoring the Terrace Garden at Garland Farm 2007-2011" Booklet. There are some historic images in the CLR for elsewhere on the property. Several years ago Board members were given a CD of images from the Cousins collection that Patrick scanned and those will be useful for reference for the other areas on the property. Carolyn has shared these on multiple occasions with Tom.

Peggy raised the issue of providing labels for some of the woody plants in the wild garden area and felt the cost would be under a hundred dollars. Carolyn informed us there is still money available from the garden club grant to pay for these so we will proceed with acquisition.

Julie expressed concern about the spruce tree plantation that encroaches on the formerly open views and also about the unkempt appearance of the greenhouse and the area surrounding it. She felt the latter could be cleaned up, perhaps with a path for visitors and other attractions such as a peach tree (neither of which are mentioned in the Cultural Landscape Report). A 1961 article mentions a peach tree behind the barn. Carolyn said one historic photograph shows an espaliered fruit tree up against the barn on the back (terrace side) but at that time it was a very sunny area. Lois suggested it might have been a 'Reliance' peach tree, a popular variety of the period, she thought, and agreed to check on that. The large cherry tree now shades that area to the point where a peach tree would never survive. I reported that none of the peach trees planted at COA ever survived. If we do proceed Carolyn suggested we espalier an appropriate variety of peach on the side of the barn facing the greenhouse as this now gets much more sun since the spruce was removed. It was also suggested that the greenhouse be tidied up and an interesting display be developed to attract visitors to that area.

Concern was also expressed about the lack of a clearly visible sign on Route 3 and the muddy conditions in the grass parking area and the fact that vehicles have gotten stuck there.

I raised a question about the decision to remove the *Sorbaria sorbifolia* along the road side of the terrace where we've been having so much trouble keeping the *Equisetum* under control. Formerly the *Sorbaria* created a good visual and noise buffer from the road as well as effectively shading out the *Equisetum* and

providing some shade for the terrace garden beds on that side. We discussed looking into availability of a smaller, less invasive variety or perhaps using Spirea since the roses are taking a long time to establish and make hand pulling of the Equisetum difficult. Carolyn reminded us that replacement cost and labor become an issue here. In looking more closely at the Cultural Landscape Report since the meeting, it refers to the Sorbaria as “a character defining hedge” but also as “highly invasive” and recommends its removal.

In the meantime, Lois has reported back that “the ‘Reliance’ peach wasn’t introduced until 1964 by University of New Hampshire. Before that, one of the most cold-hardy peaches commonly planted was ‘Redhaven’, released by Michigan State University in 1940.”

Carolyn and Dave Hollenbeck, with the assistance of Marti Harmon and Carl Kelley (Carl is a Master Gardener Volunteer and was the past Grounds Manager for the Thuya), has generously provided assistance weeding the holding garden beds and the entrance garden where they have started pruning back some of the overgrown shrubs. I hope everyone appreciates the dramatic improvement.

Submitted by  
Isabel Mancinelli, Committee Chair