

Garland Farm
Site Visit
April 10, 2013

Attending:

Carolyn Hollenbeck, BFS VP1
Isabel Mancinelli, BFS L/G Co-Chair

Not attending:

Val Libby, BFS L/G Co-Chair

Wild Garden:

Discussion to remove the tiny Locust in the lawn next to the Wild Garden. As the large existing tree is older than 40 years this is most likely a sucker from a root. While there was discussion amongst the 2012 L/G Committee to save it, the tiny size and who would be responsible for its nurturing are undetermined. Its presence in the lawn makes mowing the area difficult and the large stakes erected to protect it cannot remain in place all season. The small apple tree next to the driveway was also being grown on. There is no historic evidence of an apple tree there. Grounds Manager Tom McIntyre was offered the tree last year. He can take the tree now or should remove it. The third final spraying of Bittersweet (to have been done fall of 2012) was not done. Spraying should be done as soon as possible by a licensed operator. Signage for the plants identified by Brenda Les is being acquired by Peggy Bowditch.

Entrance Gardens:

Snip the holly at the base of the Prunus sargentii to avoid it from continuing up the tree. Soil test the Buxus to determine the pH and nutrient requirement. Continue to reduce the size of the existing Buxus. Soil testing in other Entrance Garden beds should be done as well and fertilization done on the basis of these analyses. Entrance Garden #2 should be kept clean and obvious non historic plants and weeds should be removed. Begin pruning to reduce height of historic shrubs within that bed. Discuss whether or not to bring some of the EG historic plants from the holding garden if out of harms way from future building restoration (Digitalis sp.)

Greenhouse area:

Any Buckthorn remaining in the spruce tree line should be removed. The area to the right of the greenhouse should be cleaned of brush. Carolyn will ask Scott about the metal container next to the greenhouse. Carolyn and Isabel feel the American Elm volunteer appears more out of place since the large Spruce was removed. Both agree it should be removed. Carolyn will mention to Judith (VP-Historical) and Scott. Val needs to weigh in on this.

Holding Garden:

Lynn Cheney (MGV) and Carolyn will thin/remove some of the remaining non-historic plants in the holding garden. Isabel will have COA students come and collect some of the surplus small bulbs in row 1 of the holding garden and plant at the COA. Narcissus sp. and Hyacinthoides sp. will remain temporarily. The holding garden is in poor condition. Sunken rows need to be “mounded” and paths need mulching material. Carolyn felt that to bring the weeds under control, hand pulling by Secret Gardens has not been an efficient approach. Hoes or cultivators must be used. Carolyn is concerned that BFS is currently paying Secret Gardens \$35/hour to weed and care for plants with less than satisfactory results. It may be necessary to bring on another subcontractor gardener to help restore “order” here. Tom should be consulted to see if he has someone that could help and a fee could be considered. There is also a volunteer option if Tom feels this would be helpful.

Vegetable Garden:

The vegetable garden that Tom McIntyre put behind the holding garden (2008) has always been a concern for Carolyn. Although it was said contributions were being made to area food banks, this was only done occasionally. Nothing was grown last year and the area was weedy and unsightly. The overhead sprinkler is to remain disabled and any vegetables planted must be hand watered. Last chance for the vegetable garden.

Shrubs behind barn:

Continue to clean the out the area, limbing up to allow open up the area. The birdhouses that were approved and sites determined last year are still next to the barn. This should be addressed.

Field:

Field has been mowed as has the grass area between the embankment an farm house. Isabel suggested sowing milkweed seeds in the field as a food source for struggling Monarchs. Carolyn agreed. Val, please weigh in.

Rose embankment:

(West) There is a old stone edge here. Keeping plants between that and the large Prunus was recommended by the L/G Committee last year. The area remained unkept and shabby through out the season. Carolyn and Isabel agree this should be weed whacked and kept tidy. Val, please weigh in.

(Back) Isabel feels we should allow the 4th cherry tree to remain in place but all small cherry seedlings should be removed. Carolyn agrees. Val, please weigh in.

(East...Clementines): Tom’s work with this embankment is good. He needs to keep on top of any Equisetum that may appear and cannot use Equisetum as a ground cover.

Slates are also discouraged in this area as there was no evidence of any on that side. There may or may not have been slate edges inside next to the rock border. Carolyn will check the BF side.

Terrace Garden:

Carolyn felt the installation of the burlap screens to protect the heathers, Jasminium and Clematis montana from winds were beneficial. When asked to keep heavy branches off the heathers (breakage issue) Kathy VanGorder came up with a great idea of using gallon plastic pots open on both ends as "sleeves". Excellent results. The little Saxafraga x macniabiana also survived. They will need a temporary sun screen until plants fill in. Clematis all need pruning now and replacement plants determined. Use of the TG booklet bed drawings will provide the names. The holding garden will have some of the material. Aggressive plants (Lysimachia etc) MUST be thinned and brought under control. Isabel will meet with Kathy VanGorder.

Isabel would like Carolyn to purchase plant material with the \$120 IMLS credit at Islandscaping. Val if you would like to pick this up, I can provide you with Frosty's contact information. It still is not determined exactly what will need replacing but Carolyn knows the Achillea tomentosa and perhaps the Dianthus plumarius 'Beatrix' will need to be acquired. We still do not know how the hybrid tea roses fared over the winter. Kathy VanGorder can handle some purchasing as needed but must stay within the boundaries set by the CLR and BF filler list. (Let's stay hopeful for the hybrid teas, original cost \$500)

Carolyn has Centaurea montana, Zinnia haageneana and the Delphinium 'Cliveden Beauty' growing from seed. She recommends bone meal for the lavender and a holly tone for the newer heathers. She will look up the amounts. Top dressing of all beds was done last year with a mix of compost/peat moss. Carolyn recommends all but the heather beds be done again. Val/Isabel/KVG can discuss. She also recommends pruning back some of the old Ericas and bringing in some from the holding garden which will bloom in season, not just in the early spring.

CAH 4/16/13