

## **MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023**

**4 NIBANG AVENUE AND VIA ZOOM**

A Special Meeting of the Landscape Committee was held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Notice of the meeting was posted in a timely manner on the Fenwick kiosk and on the website.

**PRESENT:**

Robyn Gengras, Chris Millard, Meg Reynolds, Pam Christensen, Committee Members. Kathy Rehm Representing Memorial Committee.

**PRESENT via ZOOM:**

Daryl Aresco, Liz Brainard, Martha Myers, Committee Members.

**NOT PRESENT:**

Tim Haviland, Ann Pulver

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Present: Debbie Neeley, Tom and Louise Riggio  
Present via Zoom: Ethel Davis

**1.Call to Order**

P. Christensen called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**2.Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2023**

**A motion was made by C. Millard, seconded by Meg Reynolds to approve the minutes as submitted.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3.Open Forum for Fenwick Residents to Speak**

No comments

**4.Coordinating Committees and New Members**

New members are Liz Brainard to represent Lynde Point Land Trust; Ann Pulver to represent the Memorial Committee; Chris Millard to represent residents.

**5.Moore Meadow Report and Update**

M. Myers reported that she has been working with David Savin on a plan for Moore Meadow in honor of Wendy Savin. The plan and work will be underwritten by donations made to the FIF in memory of Wendy and maintenance will be funded in perpetuity by D. Savin. The plan includes: Installing town water at the meadow; engaging a landscape architect and planting team; installing a rock with a plaque; and planting wild flowers. The Board of Burgesses has approved the installation of Town water and M. Myers is currently interviewing landscape architects for the project.

#### **6.UConn Connecticut Shoreline Native Planting List**

At the March meeting the Committee discussed the importance of developing a recommended list of appropriate native and natural plants based on a criteria of maintenance, water constraints, etc. that would be a resource for the Committee and Borough when considering new plantings. E. Davis and L. Brainard suggested the “Connecticut Coastal Planting Guide” compiled by Juliana Barrett for UConn. The list was distributed to Committee members in advance of the meeting and was endorsed at the meeting.

#### **7.The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee**

Committee members discussed the importance of working with the Park Commission and D. Aresco as new Tee work is being planned and executed as opposed to after the work has been completed as in the case of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee. The Tees to be worked on in the fall are the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>.

R. Gengras stressed the importance of a close working relationship and collaboration with both the Park Commission and Daryl and his crew and reminded everyone that they are responsible for all of the parkland in the Borough and their resources can be stretched thin. T. Riggio re-enforced R. Gengras’ comments.

#### **8.Report on Landscape Architects – Possible Action.**

M. Reynolds reported that she had met with 5 landscape architects and recommended Christine Darnell for the following reasons: her knowledge of native and natural plantings; drought tolerant and low maintenance plantings; meadow plantings. Additionally, she knows Fenwick; has a great contracting team to install; and is available to be hands-on for a project in Fenwick. M. Reynolds was also impressed with her initial thoughts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee.

M. Reynolds distributed a proposal from C. Darnell for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee which included design hours; overseeing the installation; the contractors price to install; and plant material at an estimated cost of \$ 6,525.00. There has been interest from residents to contribute to the FIF to pay for the work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee.

The goals for landscaping and planting were discussed and it was agreed that all planting should be simple and understated, native and natural, low maintenance, should enhance the views and be consistent throughout the Borough. Committee agreed that “less is more.” Good examples cited were the grasses on the berm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and the natural grasses along the cove on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole.

The goals for hardscapes such as the paths should also be simple and understated, natural and consistent throughout the Borough. Committee members will think about ideas for path materials to replace the black top surface on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee.

**A Motion was made by C. Millard, seconded by M. Reynolds, “to recommend that the Warden and Burgesses retain Christine Darnell to design a plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee, select and supply plants, oversee the planting, and supply and oversee the contractors for the installation as outlined in her proposal dated July 26, 2023 at a cost not to exceed \$ 7000.00 and to be underwritten by private donations through the FIF.”**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. Aresco will work closely with C. Darnell in all phases of this project. D. Aresco, M. Reynolds and T. Haviland will work as a subcommittee with C. Darnell on a plan to present to the Landscape Committee, Park Commission and Board of Warden and Burgesses.

### **9.Next Steps**

- C. Millard and D. Aresco have been communicating about potential solutions to reduce wear and tear on the course. Two suggestions were using Traq Matz on grass areas with heavy traffic and using small stakes to manage traffic flow and wear patterns. The stakes are inexpensive and easily moved. D. Aresco has a plan to use the stakes in the future.

-D. Aresco, M. Reynolds, T. Haviland to work with C. Darnell on a plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tee.

### **10.Committee Member Comments**

No comments.

### **11.Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Christensen, Landscape Committee