

Eastham Public Library

190 Samoset Road

Eastham, MA

January 17, 2017

Refer to the Landscape Plan of January 11, 2017, "Plant Management and Native Plantings"

NARRATIVE FOR PROPOSED LANDSCAPE PLAN

Existing Landscape Conditions: The proposed project is within the 100' buffer zone from the edge of Depot Pond. The site has a slope going down to the pond which is predominately wooded with native vegetation including Pitch Pine, Oak, Black Cherry, Chokeberry, Summer-sweet, Viburnum shrubs, Poison Ivy, Bull Brier, and other herbaceous plants. There are some non-native and invasive plant species on the site including Norway Maple, Black Locust, Japanese Knotweed, English Ivy, minimal Bittersweet, and a few Barberry. There is gall insect infestation to some of the Oak trees causing weak growth. Overall the slope is stabilized and well vegetated. The soil at the site looks like a sandy loam.

Work Area: The proposed project is mostly within the 50' buffer zone from the edge of the pond. Some work will be done between the 50' buffer line and the 100' line.

Proposed Landscape Project:

* The goal of the work is to reduce the amount of undesirable trees such as Black Locusts and Norway Maples, improve the natural appearance of the wooded area, and develop subtle view corridors to the pond as viewed from the Library. Refer to the landscape plan to see the view concept and planting mitigation plan. The work includes tree removal, falling selected trees to leave them in the woods for increased animal habitat, perform selective pruning, plant native shrubs and trees, and apply herbaceous seed mix as needed for mitigation. It is proposed to selectively flush cut the stump growth of the undesirable Black Locust. There will be minimal disturbance to the soil, reducing any chance of erosion.

*Tree removal timing: Pruning and tree removal will be done during the dormant season, roughly between December 1 and March 15 to reduce insect infestation and avoid bird nesting periods.

Tagged with orange ribbon: It is proposed to remove about 4 Black Locust, 4 small Black Cherry, 4 Norway Maple, 1 dead Oak, and 1 Pitch Pine that is a threat to the building. There are some Locust and Norway Maple saplings and stump growth to be removed. Resulting debris to be removed.

Tagged with blue ribbon: The main trees for habitat purposes include 4 Black Locusts, and 3 Pitch Pines. They will be flush cut and left on the forest floor as habitat for wildlife and will rot over time to nourish the soil.

Tagged with yellow ribbon: It is proposed to prune 2 Pitch Pines, 2 Black Cherry trees, and 5 Black Oaks. Remove dead wood and lateral branching to help create viewing corridors to the pond. No more than 10% of live branches are to be removed. Remove the resulting debris.

*Revegetation: See the attached landscape plan with the proposed mitigation and restoration of native plant species listed with sizes and quantities, including 64 three gallon shrubs and trees for the buffer

zone to benefit the wildlife habitat and develop root systems for soil stability. As noted on the landscape plan, any disturbed areas will be seeded with a Native Warm Season, or Harmony seed mix. Selected areas will be seeded with native Deschampsia Hair Grass.

Planting: The plants will be pocket-planted using organic soil amendments as needed. The newly planted native plants will not be mulched. Any disturbed areas between the plants can be seeded with a native grass mix.

General Sequence of Work and Management: Removal of trees is planned for the Spring or Fall, and pruning will be done during the dormant season between December 1 and March 15. Plantings are to be installed soon after any clearing is done, weather permitting. New plantings will be watered by hand or with temporary above ground hose and soaker hose irrigation for a period of three years to get the vegetation established. It is proposed to allow occasional hand pruning of the new plants for three years to remove dead wood, help maintain healthy growth, and to monitor the introduction of invasive species which are to be removed by hand.

It is proposed to allow annual professional maintenance vista pruning in perpetuity between the building and the resource area in the vista corridors as shown on the landscape plan. Pruning to be done when the plants are dormant. Stump growth can be monitored with occasional pruning in the future especially for the Black Locust trees.

Work Protocol: The contractor will inform the Conservation Agent prior to work commencing and, if needed, will meet on site to review the project and Order of Conditions.

Alternative Analysis and Projections: Alternatives to the proposed landscape are limited. The proposal has allowed for mitigation and restoring the lot with native species within the 100' buffer line. The removal of the stump growth Locust trees and other undesirable species will enhance the overall appearance of the forest setting and allow for some filtered view of the pond. The environmental benefits of adding more understory shrubs and trees include increased stability of the soil, increased vegetation for wildlife habitat, and overall more native plants resulting in less human disturbance. The removal of trees within the buffer zone will cause little environmental impact to the site. There will be more light available for the understory plants to grow. Periodic removal of invasive and non-native plant species will help reduce their spread. The three year management of the plants with irrigation will help the new native plants survive as they adapt.