

Watson Park Tour and Outline

September 14, 2014

Present: Doug Emo, Ann_____, Peter Milford, Katy Milford, Joanne Auclair, Adam Dolby, Andy Montanaro

The following is a description of issues observed on a tour of the park, with the park superintendent and members of the Historical Commission, and Selectboard. The purpose was to help identify areas needing attention, start a division of duties outline, and finally to prioritize the list from most important to least. Please review the list below and provide me with your opinion of the rank of areas/work of highest to lowest importance. Further, please provide any other ideas that would enhance the park's attractiveness for, and usability by the public.

1. Front Entrance: Pillars need a few stones replaced.
 - A. Top soil in front of rock wall – OK. Doug has access to top soil from TJ.
 - B. Front plantings – talk to garden club.
 - C. Gate: Need side fence and gates to match. Kate to speak to Mary K. about Proposal provided to Selectboard. Will collaborate and give recommendation.
 - D. Watson Park Sign: Needs to be re-secured.
2. Stumps: There are two stumps to the inside right of the entrance. There are also several other stumps noted within the park. Doug will get a price to remove all of them.
3. Space under maple to right of gate: remove rocks and growth. Return to grass for mowing.
4. Install post and rail, or other appropriate fence at south boundary of park up to stone wall, along street side. Historical to recommend type.
5. Under birch: remove weeds and return to grass. Mow.
6. Stone wall on east side of park from street to behind barns: clean out growth in front. Repair wall. Remove vines.
7. Barn #1: Repair window frames to match historical colors. Peter to give us a list of necessary repairs to this structure. Remove scrub brush on east side of barn. Remove old picnic tables behind barn (use for Halloween fire?).
8. Barn #2: Historical Commission paying for renovations, in trade for use of the barn. Eventually old wagons to be stored here. Needs brush cleaned away. North side needs re-

siding. Peter to paint door, and repair post on Southeast side of structure. Remove brush on north side.

9. Tennis Court: Repair fence. Add green vinyl fabric or paint chain link green. Replace missing door. Remove shrubs around fence. Historical believes that if a pavilion is added in the park, it should be to the west of the park road.
10. Hedge going east/west as boundary of park, after barns: Hedge should be selectively pruned to remove invasive vines, leaving original bushes. Bushes should be allowed to grow over eye height, as a living wall. Parts of hedge have been removed to allow for foot traffic. These need to be replanted with the same variety of hedge plant and allowed to fill in, for a completed wall. Historical will be leading this effort. (Note: a water spigot was located in this corner of the property. It looks to be functional.)
11. Rock wall on east property line, going behind Church: Doug to clean out brush that is covering wall, and repair wall as he is able. Peter to tag questionable (small to mid-sized) trees that will be left in place. Large ones stay. Remainder to be removed. Dead limbs in large (oak?) must be removed. Doug to start from this entry and clear the stone wall, going north and south from this point.
12. West walk entry from White Church: Add decorative gate. Add gravel as a path to the gazebo. Rebuild walkway to gazebo, with low hedge on either side of walkway (boxwood?).
13. Gazebo: To the right and left of the gazebo are a number of (previous) flower and shrub beds, which are turning to weeds now. Historical Comm. Is working with landscaper to combine beds that previously were contiguous, and match shape of each, to highlight gazebo. The plan is to remove some plants in this area this fall, and to replant new in the spring.
14. Gazebo: Cigarette butts in structure; slats over rail broken out. Security needs to be addressed to protect this central attraction. The tall spruce trees to the east of the gazebo were meant to be shaped and kept lower, in order to see (Springfield) to the east. These are overgrown – very pretty in their own right, but an obstacle, which some like and some do not.
15. Large Copper beach: Brush under tree should be removed – back to the hydrangea bushes.

16. North side of park, east of road: Large swath of growth: Keep good stuff and remove overgrowth. Arborist or expert must make decisions and coordinate this job.

17. Road at north end of park: Growth is encroaching on the road. Doug to cut back bushes to allow for unobstructed vehicular traffic. Cutting should be on bushes closest to the road, and they should be taken down to the ground.