

Town Hall Law Committee Meeting

July 26, 2017, 4:30 PM

Attending:

- Ralph Elwell
- Marianne Howlett
- Bob Bower
- Clyde Carson
- George Pellittieri

The committee met to consider input from the public listening session in June and to discuss options with George Pellittieri. By the end of the meeting the committee decided to recommend an incremental approach, which involves:

- Keeping the oak trees
- Keeping the fountain as a center piece of the landscape
- Improving space for the Farmers' Market, Festival and other events.
- Commitment to maintaining grass areas

Specifically:

- Use an arborist to prune the oak trees, so that more light reaches the ground and the crown starts higher up, giving a better view of the Town Hall.
- Repair the fountain, so that it works with the bubbler. Longer term we would look at a restoration, including a light.
- Remove the Christmas tree and relocate the flag pole to that area
- Widen the sidewalk area along Main St. The width would extend back as far as the bricked area where the kiosk is located and run in front of the oak trees. This will provide better space for vendors.
- Relocate the kiosk at the corner of the driveway. This will provide more open space.
- The fence would be extended to run along the back of the front walk. The purpose of the fence would be to limit traffic across the grass area.
- Restore the grass area in front of the Town Hall. George will recommend a variety that would withstand traffic. We may opt for sod to minimize the "keep off the grass" time.
- Put a maintenance plan in place, that involves fertilization, irrigation, acorn removal, snow removal, ice melt selection, rotation of use areas, etc. We should consider contracting with a lawn service for the maintenance.

The committee hopes these measures will improve the use of the Town Hall grounds for town events, along with keeping the grounds attractive. Approaches involving the replacement of the trees and using hardscaping could be considered in the future, if this approach fails to achieve that goal.

The committee hopes to meet with the select board soon to discuss these recommendations.