

Bayside Parts and Trees Committee

Notes regarding a perennial garden in upper Bayview Park

The Committee has studied the proposal for a garden in Upper Bayview, a gift from the Kazilionis family. There have been numerous reactions to this proposal, both pro and con. The committee has carefully considered each point made by community members in making its decision.

Critiques of the proposal were in five general areas which the Committee answers as follows:

1. Precedent

There have been many precedents of non-monetary gifts to the Village, including numerous memorial park benches, playground equipment (funds raised privately), Brockway models, fences, benches, and paving at the library, paving the CH parking area, etc. Gift proposals involving village property do not automatically have to be accepted. They are accepted or rejected by the Overseers on their own merits.

2. Financial burden to the Village

There will be no cost to the village. The Kazilionis family is paying for the garden installation and all maintenance for 10 years. At that time, they may decide to continue that support or not. If they don't, the village can either require them to remove the garden and replant grass – returning the park to its former condition; OR the village may or seek another donor; OR decide that they wish to keep the garden and take over the maintenance as part of the Parks budget. The acceptance of the gift does not necessitate the latter option. The garden maintenance should be required to be done by an insured service, like all Village work. Plants Unlimited, who will be doing the work, will need to provide proof of insurance.

3. Change in views (I.e., "It's always been that way")

In Bayside's history, the most constant thing is change. Looking at the material on the walls in the current exhibit will make that obvious. Bayview Park has not always been an unobstructed lawn. As late as the early 20th C, there were many trees planted in Lower Bayview, according to photos from the BHPS. A recent picture of the day of Society Cottages, showed that the grass was not mowed then. Bayside is a living, breathing organism and changes, big and small, have been made throughout its history. And no landscape lasts forever.

4. Views from residences on upper Bayview will be blocked

On a walk-through by the committee, the basic outline of the proposed garden was laid out according to the design. Photos were taken from below the porch steps of the property of Don Webster at the top of the park including a pole scaled to provide for measurements on a diagrammatic simulation of the plantings, their locations and heights. Plant sizes on the diagram were obtained from the Missouri Botanical Garden

Plant Finder, an authoritative source. The simulation shows that the mature plants will not block views of the water when viewed from the ground level at the Webster's. More elevated views from the first and second stories of the house will be still higher above the plantings.

5. Deer/bears

The garden design has been prepared by a landscape architect specifically with the deer problem in mind. He has used plants that deer are not attracted to – like the arbor vitae, a favorite deer food, they are now browsing in the park. Many of these plants exist in other Bayside gardens, even out of the central village, where they are not bothered by deer. Thus, they will not attract deer to areas where they are not already a problem. Regarding bears: there have been no bear sightings in Bayside in recent memory.

The views from above and below the garden will, of course, change. Looking from the water, there will now be a bright spot of color on the park during three seasons, instead of just a swath of green. Bayside has many gardens and many of them are on public property (the rights-of-way of most village streets extend to porches and the lovely gardens on those streets are mostly on public land). There will remain several major open swaths of grass, including lower Bayview and Ruggles Parks. Aside from the residents on Rogers Lane, Upper Bayview Park is not widely used by the general public.

Nobody doesn't like flowers. The gardens of Mary Brown, Carlton Smith, Linda Ellis, and Ned Lightner, to name just a few, delight the senses of everyone throughout the summer. Different individuals have different tastes in landscaping, which the Committee respectfully acknowledges. The offer of the Kazilionis family would create another lovely experience, not only for the residents around the park, but for everyone who walks or drives past it.

Accordingly, the Parks and Trees Committee has voted to recommend that the overseers of the NVC accept the Kazilionis family's gift with the provisos listed above.