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From: **Wendy Huntoon** <glhuntoon@comcast.net>

Date: Wed, Jul 5, 2023 at 8:41 AM

Subject: Bayview park garden

To: Victoria Matthews <vmatthews@nvcmaine.org>

Cc: Janae Novotny <president@nvcmaine.org>
<mailto:vmatthews@nvcmaine.org>

Vicky -

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend today's in person NVC Parks and Trees committee meeting since I need to take my father to a doctor's appointment.

I would like to reiterate my concerns regarding the garden. While I was unable to attend the walk through I have discussed the garden and walkthrough with others who were able to attend. Below is a brief update on my comments.

- It is my understanding, both from Don Webster's recent email and those attending the walkthrough, that the proposer, Steve Kazilionis, did not attend the walkthrough, however others who live in the area have and object to the garden. In addition, I have yet to hear Mr. Kazilionis advocate for the garden himself, including at the multiple overseers meetings when this issues has been discussed. My expectation for any villager that is passionate about a project would advocate for that project themselves.

- Given Mr. Kazilionis's proximity to Bay View park, the same result could be achieved by him planting the garden on his own property. The area would be beautified, he would be solely responsible for its upkeep, including after 10 years, Issues associated with the plantings, including height, attraction of deer and other pests, would be his alone to deal with and not the village's or his neighbor's.

- Based on recent information, the garden appears to be a substitute for a personal garden. Given the ongoing encroachment issues within the village, I believe this is a bad precedent to start. Given the lack of support for the garden from others in the area, what would stop a single villager from proposing a personal garden in Merithew Sq, Blaisedale Park, Schribner Park, lower Bayview Park or any other public lands within the village. Once the Overseers approve this garden in a public space, there will be fairly high burden for the Overseers to refuse other such requests.

- There are other public areas with the village that are in need of beautification. A directed donation such as this circumvents the prioritization by the villagers on areas that need to be cleaned up. Frankly upper Bayview park looks fine, but the lower part of Bayview Park, particularly around the new tree where the previously planted bushes looks unkempt. Other areas that could benefit from the donation: improving the landscaping around the basketball court, any remaining work for Ruggles Park after the seawall build, around the fire pond (either a donation for the fence replacement or landscaping once that has been completed), etc.

- The actual cost of the garden has not been evaluation. While Mr. Kazilionis has offered to maintain the garden for up to 10 years, there is no written agreement to that effect. What are the plans if he is no longer able to take care of the garden going forward for whatever reason? We have seen from other projects - the seawall, project canopy, Merithew Sq., etc. that landscaping projects can have unexpected expenses. Has the Parks and Trees committee assessed what the costs might be and planned accordingly.

Finally, based on the draft 2024 budget NVC and the villagers are seeing increasing expenses associated with core services. Most recently, as discussed at donuts and dialog this past weekend, wharf piling repairs, new police cruiser, the aforementioned fire pond fence, and the basketball court repair, A garden in an area that currently looks fine is an unnecessary luxury.

Thanks,

Wendy