

June 4, 2009
Vision Plan Extension Notes
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Highway Department Site Landscape Strategy
Signage Guidelines

As unexpected funds remained from the Vision Plan Grant it was decided to apply the funds to a landscaping strategy for the Highway Department Site and Signage for the Butler Gateway. These notes pertain to both of these projects.

Present: ESF- Maren King and Sara Mills, Supervisor Lauderdale, Councilman Metcalf, Planning Bd. Chairman – Brian Secor, Highway Superintendent – Allen Sherman.

ESF – Maren King and Sara Mills presented the landscape strategy for the Highway Department Site.

The objectives for the Highway Department Site Landscaping Strategy are the following:

- Diminish the view from Lopez Lane and the Butler Gateway into the township
- Keeping the ditch clean from runoff of salt, sand, and sediment from daily highway operations by using plants to slow the run-off.
- Minimize the traffic flow by eliminating the two driveways off Messner Rd. thereby creating a visual barrier of the storage areas of the property.
- Mange run-off washing into ditch and help with the maintenance behind the Town Barn.

From these objectives the following alternatives were discussed.

Alternative 1: Hedgerow and Buffer Scenario

A row of street trees would camouflage the site from Route 89; as well establish an edge along the east side of the site. The trees would be interplanted with large shrubs to provide a hedgerow effect. The plantings would be bermed so that they effectively block views into the yard and does not allow storm water to accumulate on site. On the north and west edges of the yard it would be screened with a mixed hedge planting of perennials, shrubs, and small trees that will provide a visual edge to the site. This planting will also work to slow and filter run-off coming from the yard into the ditch that feeds into the creek.

Bioswale with Vegetated Channel Option: The space behind the Town Barn with a drainage pipe that accumulates most of the run-off from the site. To provide a visual edge to the site, vegetated swale would be used with a deep metal edging to keep gravel drive material out of swale.

Alternative 2: Fence and Buffer Scenario

Screening from Route 89 by a combination of a consistent street tree canopy and clutters of lower shrub and perennial material. A low fence behind the planting will protect the plant material from the machinery working in the yard and will serve as a backdrop during the winter months. Along Messner Road the yard will be screened with a loose hedge of shrubs and small trees that will provide a visual edge to the site and filter run-off coming from the yard into the ditch that feeds into the creek.

Bioswale with Gravel Channel Option

The space behind the Town Barn where there is an existing drainage pipe. This option would consist of a gravel channel, vegetated slopes, and metal edging to keep gravel drive material out of swale.

It was explained that the plantings of certain trees, shrubs and other plant material would act as not only a visual buffer but to pick up the moisture going into the ditch and throughout the site itself, with the intention of eliminating most of the run-off. It further noted that by eliminating the Messer Road entrances and landscaping would provide a visual barrier to the storage area.

Councilman Metcalf noted concerns with visibility issues at the intersection of Route 89 and Messer Road should we use this option. It was explained that with the usage of large canopy trees, low shrubs and perennials this should not be an issue.

Highway Superintendent, Allen Sherman, noted in reference to the bioswale option behind the Town Barn, that the highway crew washes their equipment and trucks out causing a lot of sediment. It was further noted that the ditch needs to be cleaned out approximately 4 times a year. It was suggested that a catch basin could be installed and flushed out periodically. As this was not addressed further review will be done. The addition of a hydrant and apron area at the front of the storage building would facilitate moving this operation to a more convenient area.

Supervisor Lauderdale also noted his concerns with the bioswale options, noting he does not want to unnecessarily create a wetland system. It was noted that the bioswale is of a small nature that the creation of a wetland system is not a concern.

Highway Superintendent also noted concerns with the hedgerow along the Route 89 and Messner Road as these are State and County roads and issues of right-a-ways would need to be addressed.

Highway Superintendent also noted that there is an 8 inch sanitary sewer line approximately 4ft down that could impact the options. So noted and will be reviewed.

Discussions of the proposed fencing were discussed. It was explained that the proposed fencing was for scale and design and to protect the trees from daily operations of the highway department and could be eliminated from the alternatives or used temporarily until the trees matured. In general those in attendance felt the need for fencing at this point would not be economically feasible or necessary.

Discussions were held regarding the drainage ditch (creamery ditch) running along Lopez Lane. It was explained that due to the creek being a natural space it would be a more detailed project and the recommendation would be that the Town further review a creek restoration plan. Maren King will contact the Town in the near future with information regarding a multi-discipline study request to SUNY ESF.

It was noted that Supervisor Lauderdale and Councilman Metcalf with support from the Town Clerk would present the options to the Town Board Monday night. The presentation's purpose being to allow the Town Board to make a decision on the suggested schemes. Supervisor Lauderdale further noted that the Wayne County Highway Superintendent stated that the Town and County right-of-ways extend 25 feet from the center of the road and the State's extend 33 feet from the center. Plantings should be beyond the right-of-way.

It was also suggested that review of tree and mulch donations be investigated. Brian Secor noted that he could possibly donate a couple trees and 10 yards of mulch. Councilman Metcalf stated he could check with Soil and Water on possible tree donations and would also check with other businesses.

ESF – will further review key dimensions, visibility issues and planting details.

Discussions on the development of sign guidelines for the township were held, as well as examples and recommendations of appropriate signage for the community. As the signage issue to gateways of the township is of major importance much discussion was held on signage being open and free of visual clutter allowing a welcoming entry experience. Signage should be distinct rural character such as key views, vistas, and view sheds, as well as landmarks and unique and historic structures. It was stated that efforts should be made to keep the entry zones free from visually-distracting features that compromise the rural character of the township and its surroundings. Discussions were also held on signage for the downtown area as well as signage development guideline process.

Julie Carey-Town Clerk