

## Draft Recommendations - Village Green

The following is a draft Phase 1 set of recommendations for enhancements to the Village Green. These suggestions are based on community outreach and committee input and it outlines a potential initial phase that could be expanded upon later. The Selectboard may also choose to implement a subset of these ideas.

We have been unable to have a landscape designer provide a proposal as yet, so the contractor, if selected, could develop design details with additional input from a committee and others as desired.

We recommend that the decision should not be put to a town vote. We believe that sufficient input has been established through the survey and outreach process, recognizing that there will always be voices objecting to specific elements of any plan.

For this scope, we envision a contribution of approximately \$5,000 from the Greensboro Association depending on what is adopted by the Selectboard. Some additional funds could be allocated if additional work is required.

As a general recommendation, we believe that all aspects of the Village Green Enhancement plan should be done in a sustainable way to not only enhance the public space for all residents and visitors but to demonstrate how communities can take the lead in advancing low energy, adaptive planning and design in Vermont.

Finally, during the outreach and survey process, there were a range of other ideas for village improvement, including a village sign, better sidewalks and pedestrian access, etc. that are not all outlined here as the focus initially is on the Village Green. The GA Village Improvement Committee, led by Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, will be pleased to continue its work on in these areas and support the Selectboard in its efforts to enhance the village for residents and visitors over time.

### Specific Village Green Enhancements:

- 1) Remove the overgrown evergreen tree in the middle of the Green and keep the center open - this will require a stump grinder and reseeded that area
- 2) Install a new smaller evergreen tree towards a corner of the Green

as a new “town Christmas tree” and to provide greenery year round. This evergreen could be in the north side or northeast corner (subject to further review) and other trees could come later to include maple or elm trees for shade during the summer and beautiful colors in the fall. (The exact location of the evergreen needs more consensus)

- 3) Consider closing the back (north) road/ driveway and fully connecting the Green to the Memorial Garden. We think it is worth a strong consideration as this additional green space would be valuable to the community given its location near the memorial garden and a number of people have also indicated a dislike of the “Do Not Enter” sign, which could be removed. To manage parking and traffic in the lot, it may make sense to configure parking spots in the north and east corner of the Green – perhaps using some of the current Green space so that cars could park and turn around more easily. If needed, a small reduction in green space on the east side and northeast corner for parking could be offset by the proposed gain in green space. Of course, this idea – along with the others - will need further validation by town officials.
- 4) Conceal the electrical box, and clean up the southwest corner, enhancing or replacing the village welcome sign (this could also come in stages which could also include a map of the town). Depending on the placement of the new evergreen tree and for holiday lighting, electric service may need to be moved.
- 5) Install / reconfigure bench seating areas (including the current one) with enhanced landscaping and perhaps flagstones around benches (see image below). A landscape designer could recommend specific bench locations and configurations – we have some initial ideas. We could eventually offer sponsorship / memorial opportunities for benches as a fund raising option. Another consideration for the future is to incorporate art in the green (for example, one idea is that benches could be commissioned where each could be unique, depending on the artists medium)
- 6) Upgrade the bike rack (perhaps the current one could be used at the beach?) as well as the trash/recycling bins. (Respondents to the survey had some questions regarding how rubbish and recycling would be managed). Place shrubs to partially conceal the bike rack and bins.
- 7) Improve sidewalks. This is a general recommendation that over time and at various locations in Greensboro – including around the Green and along Breezy Ave past the Lakeview Inn – their needs to be enhancements made and extensions to sidewalks to improve pedestrian access.

- 8) Other items. Additional future consideration can also be made to the street lighting in the village and what kind of street lighting is appropriate. As new ideas are developed for village improvement, we will be happy to share them. While a small Gazebo is still a possibility, feedback was mixed and the thinking is to postpone any further consideration at this time.

Village Green Photo



Concept for park bench with flagstones

