



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Jones and Members of the Board

FROM: Karen Proctor, Town Administrator

DATE: August 4, 2022

RE: Open Space

DISCUSSION:

At the meeting on July 21, 2022, the Board requested a discussion regarding the following items in the Open Space:

1) Weed mitigation

Thistle is an issue in the open space. Should Terracare trim the perimeter as well as parts of the interior?
Should we also considering spot spraying the area?

2) Plant identification and marking

A suggestion has been made that we identify the plants we wish to retain using red tape so Terracare will be able to better maintain the area.

3) Controlling overgrowth

Trees are sprouting up. The next step is identifying and trimming them to control the growth, up not out. This would align with MHFD's practice of selecting and trimming the willows so that the lowest limbs are at a 5-foot height. This also allows for natural ground covers to regenerate.

4) Planting new trees

MHFD provided the following recommendations:

- New plantings should be clear of the channel.
- Continue to manage the area by keeping the center pathway of the channel cleared of growth.
- Allow new growth to come back in the uplands area.

- Wait until fall to plant anything new.
MHFD may be able to help fund new plantings.

5) Grate Update

Staff has been in contact with MHFD regarding securing of the grate. They have had some funding and scheduling difficulties, but still plan to do the work. As of July 22, 2022, this work has not be scheduled.

6) Other?