

Third Track Committee of the Board of Trustees
Village of Garden City
351 Stewart Avenue
Garden City, New York 11530

July 15, 2020

Travis Brennan, 3rd Track Constructors, via email travis.brennan@3rdtc.com

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Assistant Outreach Director

Long Island Railroad Expansion Project

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing to you as the members of the Third Track Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Garden City. We represent the Village of Garden City and are authorized to act on its behalf.

We are referring to the latest Landscaping Plan sent to us on or about June 1, 2020 through email from Virginia Comforti.

A. General Comments.

As we have expressed previously, we have the following general comments. In Section B we have specific changes to specified areas as designated by the Landscaping Plan pagination.

1. Height and spacing of hedge/shrub plantings.

We (and many residents) insist on as much “coverage” as possible of the new walls (retaining and sound) as feasible. Generally, we insist that the majority of hedges and shrubs be planted 3 to 4 feet of center, not 5 feet or more. Please revise accordingly. This will of course result in an increase in the number of plantings throughout. Larger plantings of course would require the 4 feet off center as opposed to smaller plantings.

With respect to height, at planting the following heights should be the norm throughout:

Skips laurels – minimum of 8 feet (measured from ground level – not inclusive of root ball);

Arborvitae (all types) - minimum of 8-10 feet (measured from ground level – not inclusive of root ball);

Hollies- (all types) - minimum of 8-10 feet (measured from ground level – not inclusive of root ball).

Leyland Cypress – minimum of 8-10 feet (measured from ground level – not inclusive of root ball).

Smaller plantings such as viburnum, fothergilla may remain the sizes as indicated in the Landscaping Plan.

2. Tree Plantings.

With respect to height, a majority of tree plantings should be increased to 25 to 30 feet in height (measured from ground level – not inclusive of root ball). Tree plantings therefore of 3” caliper throughout the Landscaping Plan therefore are not acceptable except in a few limited places.

3. Soil improvement, grass areas.

The current plans indicate 4 inches of topsoil improvement. Given the compacting in many places caused by heavy equipment and vehicles, we want soil to be dug to a depth of 6 inches and not 4 inches with new clean soil then worked into the areas.

A. Grass areas such as the traffic circle at the north end of Clinch and adjacent to the new roadway should be planted with sod, not seeding. See TRP-06

B. Grass areas along the Nassau Blvd Bridge and New Elevator should be planted with sod, not seeding. See TRP-10.

C. New Grass Area along retaining wall north side of Brixton Road to Whitehall (east of the Cow Pasture) should be planted with sod, not seeding. See TRP-11.

D. Grass areas in the Cow Pasture/Strawberry Field should be planted with sod, not seeding. This area requires sod, as previously discussed to a north south width of approximately 60 feet along the entire field.

E. Grass area along Main Avenue from Merillon Station Platform to Tanners Pond Road – should be planted with hydro-seed. See TRP-08 and TRP-11

4. Irrigation.

The Village is obtaining quotes for irrigation in some of the areas noted in the Landscaping plans and will provide. Under the MOU, irrigation is to be provided at the cost of MTA and its contractors.

We will of course provide access to water lines in our streets.

The areas for irrigation are

- A. Nassau Haven Ball field area along the new wall to cover approximately 6-10 feet of depth south from wall;
- B. Grass areas such as the traffic circle at the north end of Clinch and adjacent to the new roadway;
- C. Grass areas along the Nassau Blvd Bridge and New Elevator;

- D New Grass Area along retaining wall north side of Brixton Road to Whitehall (east of the Cow Pasture);
- E. Grass areas in the Cow Pasture/Strawberry Field. Length of field to 60 feet north south depth;
- F. Grass area along Main Avenue from Merillon Station Platform to Tanners Pond Road.

5. Guarantee of Plantings.

We would like confirmation that plantings will be guaranteed for one year. Those that do not take or die out within that timeframe will be replaced.

B. Specific Plan Changes

1. Clinch Traffic Circle Area – TRP-06

Note – we are working off TRP-06 – but it does not detail what plantings are intended for the grass/hill area immediately next to the new underpass. Please advise or did we miss it somewhere? We suggest a mix of Holly, Alleghany viburnum and artic juniper.

- a. We suggest the following modifications to the proposed hedges/shrubs (reducing the 68 arborvitaes):

25 skip laurels;
 25 “green giant” arborvitaes – placed primarily near the north end;
 10 emerald green arborvitaes.

Add throughout a total of 5 American Holly.

As note above – because we are requesting that hedges/shrubs be planted 3-4 feet off center, the numbers of actual plant may increase.

- b. We suggest the following modifications to the proposed tree plantings:

Add an additional sweetgum.

The 6 little leaf linden should be 25-30 feet in height.

2. Nassau Haven Ballfield – TRP-07

Initially suggested that the right field ball field area may be a good area for holly trees. We have re–thought that suggestion.

- a. The 3 existing tees should remain in the right field outfield area. Not to be removed.

- b. All existing brush, overgrowth along the fence will be removed and area planted with sod (other than where hedges/shrubs being planted).
- c. We believe that the 3TC team and MTA/LIRR have advised that the new wall is the “wall” and there will be no chain link fence. The existing fence will be removed by 3TC. Please confirm.
- d. Please plant skip laurel in lieu of holly - 8 feet in height 3- 4 feet apart from center.
- e. Please do not plant the 5 Eastern Redbud.

3. Tanners Pond to Kildare (excluding any Denton Avenue Bridge changes) – TRP-09

- a. We would prefer a total of 4 red maples (not 1). Disbursed as may allow.
- b. As noted above under General comments – trees to be 30 foot in height.
- c. As hedges/shrubs be planted 3-4 feet off center, the numbers of actual hedge/shrubs may increase.
- d. No Reymond Linden trees. Replace with Little Leaf Linden.
- e. Replace any of the existing tall Pines that have been damaged by construction crews– Village will further inspect and advise.

4. Merillon Avenue Station Plan

- a. grass areas – irrigation and sod.
- b. in LSP-03 plan – the Eastern redbud and sweet gum to be 25 feet in height.
- c. in “grass area” slope near elevator – add 1 “cherry tree”. 10 feet in height and 1 white pine – 25 feet.

5. Cow Pasture/Strawberry Field (Kilburn to Brixton) and East to Whitehall

- a. as noted above, plants hedges/shrubs 3-4 feet from center. Not 5 feet or more unless planting is larger than 10 feet. Current plan – TRP-11 has some plantings at 8 to 12 feet or more from center.
- b. irrigation to be added.

- c. sod new grass areas.
- d. add 10-12 additional green giant arborvitae dispersed. Particular attention to placing along roadway between Brixton and Whitehall.
- e. as noted above under general comments – white pine and oaks – to be 25 to 30 feet in height.
- f. plant 4 overcup oak in area– not just 1. 25-to 30 feet height. Plant 2 of them in roadway area between Brixton and Whitehall.

6. Triangle Area at Rockaway/Old Country Road Bridge

As a result of parking of construction vehicles, the area, per the requirements of the MOU, needs to be regraded and re-sodded with grass. Soil should be repaired to a depth of 6 inches.

Cordially,

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Joseph DiFrancisco

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