

**TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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**147 Cordaville Road
Southborough, MA 01772**



DATE: November 10, 2021

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Southborough Board of Selectmen
CC: Mark Purple, Town Administrator
FROM: Karen Galligan, DPW Superintendent
SUBJECT: St. Mark's Street and Route 85 Intersection and Park Area**

GENERAL

Since there seems to be a lot of questions about the St. Mark's Street and Route 85 intersection improvement project I have tried to summarize, and clarify, the work being done as part of the project in this memo.

This project was able to be developed due to the State's Shared Spaces Grant. The Town was able to secure \$290,000 through the grant. The grant provided the Town with the opportunity to greatly improve a maintenance and navigationally challenging intersection while also providing park space and a native species garden. This was possible because the park area was an attractive asset for the area and made a reciprocal license, to be followed by the granting and taking of easements, with St. Mark's more beneficial to all parties.

DOWNTOWN AND VARIOUS STREETS PROJECT

I believe that a lot of the confusion with this project is because of the fast track of the project, due to the Shared Spaces Grant, as well as the fact that the project is actually only one part of the Downtown and Various Streets Project which includes:

1. the continuation of the Main Street Reconstruction Project in the downtown;
2. a new sidewalk on part of Newton Street;
3. improved sidewalks on Cordaville Road (from the newly replaced sidewalks to the northern entrance of Rural Cemetery);
4. intersection improvements to the Flagg and Deerfoot Roads intersection (as recommended in the 2016 Flagg Road Safety Study).

The full set of plans is on the DPW page of the Town's website at:

https://www.southboroughtown.com/sites/g/files/vyhliif7351/f/uploads/plans_0.pdf

ST. MARK'S STREET AND ROUTE 85 INTERSECTION SHIFT

The St. Mark's Street and Route 85 intersection improvement part of the Downtown and Various Streets Project shifts the intersection south about 230'. This shift is beneficial because the shift allows us to change the geometry of St. Mark's Street to better accommodate emergency vehicle and bus turning radii. The roadway may have asphalt binder by the end of the calendar year.

DRAINAGE

The intersection improvement also extends the new drainage system on Route 85 to improve drainage in the area. This additional drainage helps the intersection as well as the Library. The drainage should be complete this year.

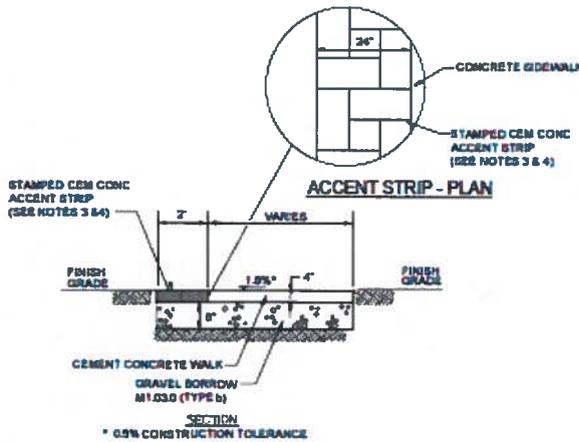
SIDEWALKS

The project adds new curbing and concrete sidewalks from the Town House's St. Mark's Street driveway to Route 85. The project also extends, adds new, sidewalks and curbing from the northern end of sidewalk at the Library, north about 650 feet to a location just north of the existing intersection. As noted in previous correspondence, a sidewalk on Marlborough Road was a priority in both the Sidewalk Committee's recommendations and the Complete Streets Project List. Sidewalks will be constructed next year.

THE PARK

Walkways: The park was designed as a circle with curved walkways spinning off of it to connect it to St. Mark's Street, Route 85 and The Library. Some of the walkway curvature is required in order to follow the site grading while still accommodating appropriate accessibility slopes.

The walkways connecting the inner circle to St. Mark's Street and the Library are concrete with a stamped accent strip. The detail in the specification, along with a picture of this type of walkway the accent would be in concrete – not brick) are below:



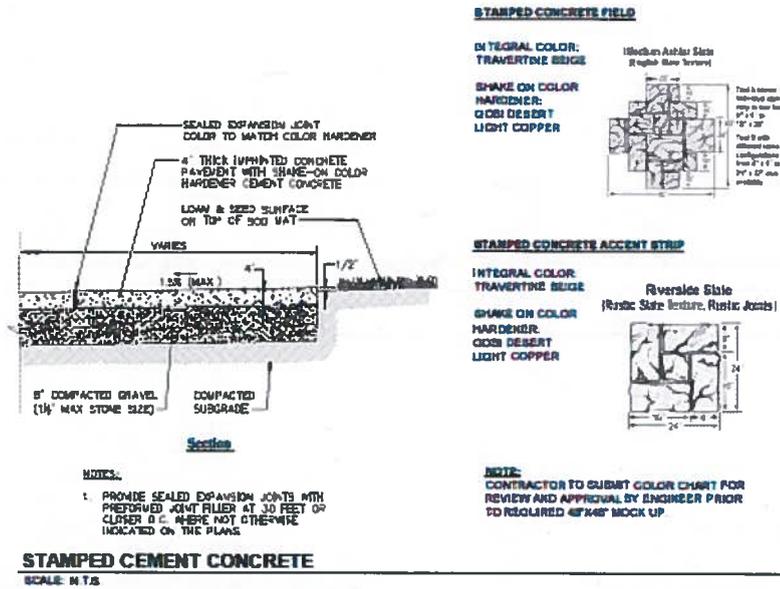
- NOTES:**
1. PROVIDE EXPANSION JOINTS AT 16N 30' O.C. WITH PRE-MOLDED JOINT FILLER.
 2. PROVIDE BROOM FINISH IN DIRECTION PERPENDICULAR TO PATH OF TRAVEL ON AREAS OF SIDEWALK WITHOUT SAWCUT.
 3. ACCENT STRIP SHALL BE COLORED CEM CONC THROUGHOUT STAMPED/IMPRESSED WITH A BRICK PATTERN.
 4. ACCENT STRIP SHALL BE PLACED PRIOR TO CEM CONC WALK SURFACE OR SIDEWALK.

**CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK WITH
STAMPED CONCRETE ACCENT STRIP**

SCALE: N.T.S.

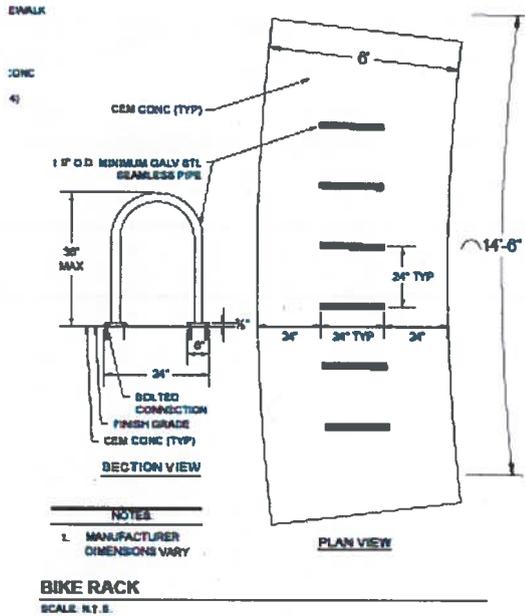
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B1

The walkways around the center circle are stamped concrete. The detail from the specification as well as a picture of this type of walkway are below:

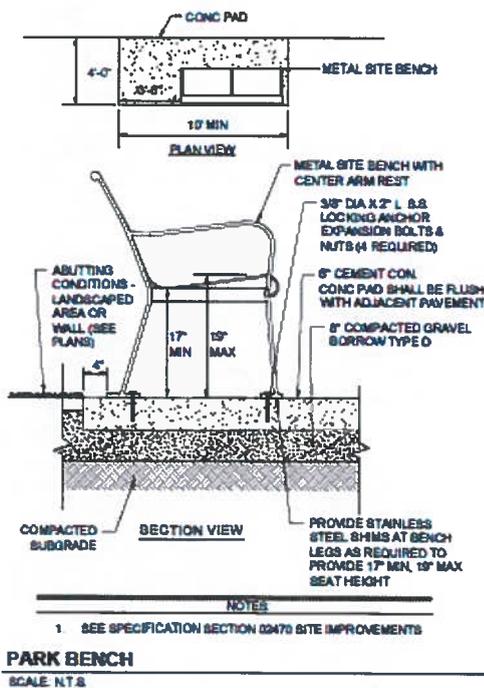


The remaining walkways, connecting the park to Route 85 and a connector piece, are plain concrete. I believe that the walkways will be roughed out by the end of this year.

Benches and Bike Racks: There is a bike rack located at the St. Mark's Street entrance to the park. The detail from the specification and a picture of the rack are below:



There is one street bench in the project, it is located behind the new sidewalk on St. Mark's Street. It is a black metal bench as shown below:

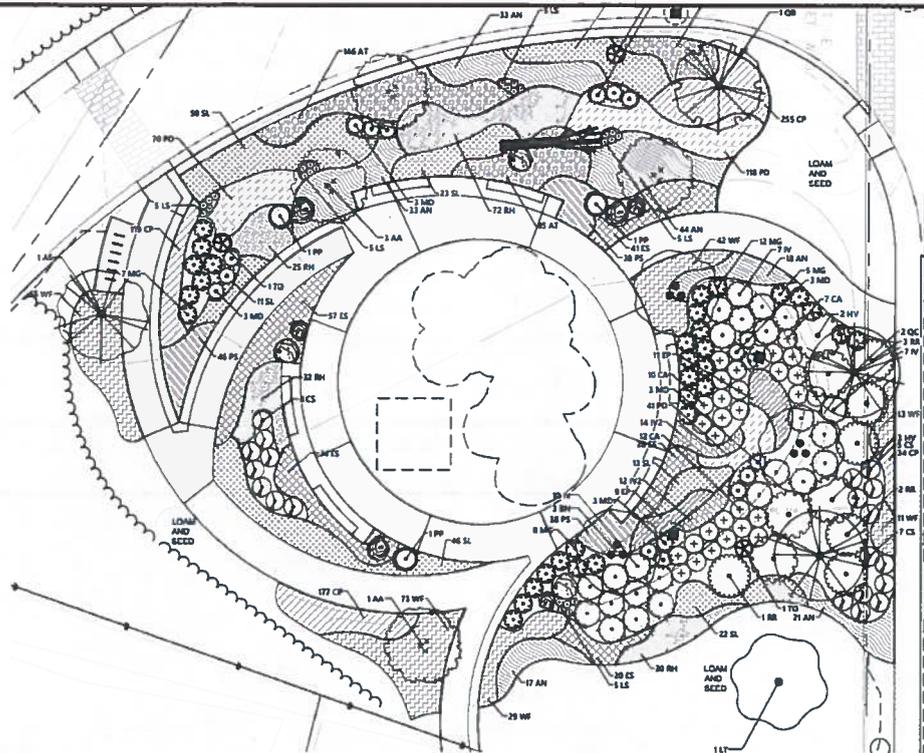


There are six curved benches located on the back side of the inner circle walkway. They are wood and similar to the one in the picture below:



Benches and bike racks will be installed next year.

The Garden: The garden area of the park utilizes native species. It was reviewed by Open Space. It is currently being re-reviewed in order to ensure a connection between this garden and the native species garden at the Library, which was not fully designed at the time this specification was written. The planting plan and the Plant Schedule are on the next page:



PLANT SCHEDULE

<u>DECIDUOUS TREES</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	
AS	1	Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	3 - 3 1/2" CAL	
BN	3	Betula nigra - Clump	Birch River 'Heritage'	8 - 10' HT. CLUMP	
LT	1	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	3 - 3 1/2" CAL	
QB	1	Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak	3 - 3 1/2" CAL	
QC	2	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	3 - 3 1/2" CAL	
<u>EVERGREEN TREES</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	
TO	3	Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'	Emerald Green Arborvitae	5 - 6' HT.	
<u>ORNAMENTAL TREES</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	
AA	4	Amelanchier arborea	Shad Tree - Downy Clump	8 - 10' HT. CLUMP	
<u>SHRUBS</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SPACING</u>
CA	29	Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet Shrub	2 - 3' HT.	48" o.c.
CS	20	Cornus sericea 'Artic Fire'	Dogwood - Redosier 'Artic Fire'	2 - 3' HT.	48" o.c.
HV	5	Hamamelis virginiana	Common Witch Hazel	2 - 3' HT.	120" o.c.
IV	24	Ilex verticillata 'Sparkleberry'	Sparkleberry Winterberry	3 - 4' HT.	72" o.c.
MG	32	Myrica gale	Sweetgale	2 - 3' HT.	48" o.c.
PP	3	Pinus mugo pumilio	Dwarf Mugo Pine	30 - 36" HT./SPD.	60" o.c.
RR	6	Rhododendron maximum roseum	Pink Rosebay Rhododendron	3 - 4' HT.	108" o.c.
<u>PERENNIALS</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SPACING</u>
LS	25	Liatris spicata	Spike Gayfeather	1 GAL	18" o.c.
MD	18	Monarda didyma	Bee Balm	1 GAL	48" o.c.
<u>ORNAMENTAL GRASS DRIFTS</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SPACING</u>
CP	585	Carex pensylvanica	Pennsylvania Sedge	1 GAL	12" o.c.
ES	172	Eragrostis spectabilis	Purple Love Grass	2 GAL	24" o.c.
SL	196	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	2 GAL	30" o.c.
<u>PERENNIAL DRIFTS</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>SPACING</u>
AT	291	Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Milkweed	1 GAL	18" o.c.
AN	166	Aster novae-angliae	New England Aster	1 GAL	30" o.c.
EP	20	Eutrochium purpureum	Sweet Joe Pye Weed	1 GAL	36" o.c.
IV2	26	Iris versicolor	Blue Flag	1 GAL	24" o.c.
PD	229	Penstemon digitalis	Beardtongue	1 GAL	18" o.c.
PS	122	Phlox subulata 'Emerald Pink'	Emerald Pink Creeping Phlox	1 GAL	18" o.c.
RH	159	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	1 GAL	24" o.c.
WF	233	Waldsteinia fragarioides	Appalachian Barren Strawberry	1 GAL	24" o.c.

There are 15 trees being planted, some are flowering, some are not. There are also many shrubs, perennials and grasses. Some of these plants are being utilized in rain gardens and will help with the drainage system of the park. The project plantings will be installed next year.

The Center: As you know, the original concept relocated a playground into the middle/main circle in the park. Currently that area is vacant and will be a stone dust circle. If the Board would like to change this, the ultimate items, amenities and/or features within the circle, should be discussed and decided on before the plantings are installed next year.

FINALLY

I have attached the plan sheets that are related to what is summarized in this memo. I have tried to highlight the main items, except drainage and change in road layout.

This project begins on page 84 of the plans, since, to restate again, the project is part of a larger multi-location Town project/contract.

As noted at the beginning of this memo, the complete set of plans is available online at:
https://www.southboroughtown.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf7351/f/uploads/plans_0.pdf

