



Invasive Species Committee

Applicant Response 6/5/2023

Letter to Groton Zoning Board of Appeals regarding Groton Farms (500 Main Street) Comprehensive Permit Application

To: Groton Zoning Board of Appeals

Cc: Sustainability Commission

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals Members,

After reviewing Exhibit One – 500 Main Street – Landscaping and Lighting Set of the Comprehensive Permit Application for Groton Farms (500 Main St), the Invasive Species Committee requests that the Zoning Board of Appeals prohibit the use of non-native plants in the “Suggested Plant Palette.” Non-native plants can exhibit invasive behavior and thus are a threat to our native ecosystems. Below we identified some potentially harmful non-native plants contained in the current list and offer alternative native plants as replacements to promote biodiversity and help sustain our native ecosystems.

*Applicant: There will be no species planted on the project that are considered invasive according to the MA Prohibited Plant List. In consideration of the Committee’s suggestions on species, we propose that we add a greater density of native plantings to our plant schedule, but still retain the flexibility to use non-native species that will not have negative impact on local ecosystems and will promote biodiversity. We can commit to having a plant schedule that will consist of 70% species native to the Northeast U.S. In addition, having stated the above, we propose eliminating *Pyrus calleryana* (Callery Pear) and *Liriope muscari* (Lilyturf) from our list due to their potentially invasive habit.*

Non-native plants in the "Suggested Plant Palette" list		Suggested native plant replacement	
Latin Name	Common Name	Latin Name	Common Name
Deciduous shade trees			
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	Fastigiata European Hornbeam	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Frans Fontaine'	Frans Fontaine European Hornbeam	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
<i>Ginkgo</i> 'Princeton Sentry'	Princeton Sentry Ginkgo	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen
		<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery Pear	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood
Evergreen trees			
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Oriental Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce
Shrubs			
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose of Sharon	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet pepperbush

Forsythia x intermedia	Border Forsythia	Cornus racemosa	Gray Dogwood
		Vaccinium corymbosum	High bush blueberry (wet conditions)
		Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush (very wet conditions)
Spirea betulifolia	Birchleaf Spirea	Spirea alba	White Meadowsweet
Perennials, Grasses and Groundcovers			
Liriope muscari 'Variegata'	Variegated lilyturf	Carex flaccosperma	Blue wood sedge
Pennisetum alopecuroides	Fountain Grass	Muhlenbergia capillaris	Muhly grass

Thank you for considering this request. Please reach out with any questions. Respectfully,

The Groton Invasive Species Committee

Invasive Species Committee, Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 0145