



Invasive Species Committee

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.

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

