

King Street Development Project
Shade Tree Committee Comments
Professional Landscape Architectural Comments by Littleton Resident, Kim Ahern
Date: 11/10/22

The following comments are noted either as Littleton Shade Tree concerns (STC)/suggestions and by Kim Ahern (KA), Littleton resident and registered landscape architect. It should be noted that due to the short time frame between receiving the plans and the Planning Board meeting, the STC members were asked to forward their comments with a formal meeting to be set later this month.

Overall, this is a very thoughtful and creative planting design. (KA)

Shade Tree Committee Comments:

- Street tree concerns-
 - o Would prefer to see more diversity of species (at least 2 types) of street trees along King Street.
 - o ARK/Karpick Red Maple as a street tree is questionable. This tree is too columnar in form/ prefer to see more of a canopy type of tree for this busy street.
 - o Red Maples require moist to wet soils to thrive, which is not the condition along King Street.
 - o Prefer to see the addition of at least 2 more large shade trees along King Street –
 - 1 in front of the stonewall at building “B”;
 - 1 between the 2 trees shown in front of the parking area to the left of building “B”.
 - 1 between building “D” and “E”.
 - o Prefer to see a tree in the wildflower area in front of Building “B”. It is a good opportunity to use more unusual specimen tree.

Kim Ahern/Landscape Architectural Comments:

- Add row of Inkberry or other low shrubs in front of and to screen parking area between building “D” and “E”.
- Question the use of *Cornus florida* ‘Cherokee Brave’. A beautiful tree but very susceptible to anthracnose.
- There are many grasses and perennials which will be beautiful when installed but require ongoing professional maintenance. Is there a maintenance plan and program?
- Thyme between pavers is hard to maintain and not always successful. Is there a plan for replacement if necessary?
- Is there an irrigation system? Please describe how the plants will be watered over time.
- Will the Landscape Architect select the plants at the nursery and be on site during construction? (In my experience, some developers hire the LA to design the planting plan but do not include the LA during construction phase)
- Screen trees for neighbors—Suggest increasing the size of at least 1/3 of the evergreen trees to 8-10' or larger.
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