

Boutwell Back Garden in Progress

By Bobbie Spiegelman

Visitors to the Boutwell House are naturally impressed with the restored look of the exterior and interior of the site, but likely have never paid any mind to the rear of the Carriage House, where the vegetation was so overgrown it was impossible to see what was once there, let alone explore the space.

This is about to change!

For the past two years, members of the Groton History Center, working with the Groton Business Association (GBA), have been steadily implementing a design plan to landscape the back of the Boutwell property. Lorayne Black and Bob Pine have created a fabulous plan which incorporates 34 trees, 96 shrubs, a 4' crushed stone walkway throughout the property, granite seating areas overlooking Gibbet Hill and a formal, late-19th century flower garden surrounded by a fence.

Initially, local landscapers Josh Degan, Keith Hooper and George Brackett led a group of volunteers in logging and chipping the entire parcel. More recently, Bennett Black stumped the property, Brian Lagasse removed all the debris and Bob Black raked and graded the parcel to prepare it for planting. The Friends of Trees have generously donated several tree varieties that we could check off our plant list.

On May 18th, we are very excited to take the next step with this project which we believe will be a welcome addition to the Boutwell site, offering a beautiful park in the center of town for visitors seeking a contemplative space, a chance to admire the view, an opportunity to educate themselves about plantings or history, or just wanting to romp through the grassy areas. ■

