

Native Landscapes, Inc.
991 Route 22
Quaker Ridge Plaza
Pawling, NY 12564
845 855 7050 - 845 855 7016 fax

Richard Rennia
Rennia Engineering and Design
6 Dover Village Plaza
Suite 5
PO Box 400
Dover Plains, NY 10522

28 July 2011

Dear Richard:

In regard to the Dover Village shopping center plaza, dated 7/13/11, I would like to make some comments on the landscape design. Concerning the steep hillside adjacent to Route 22, I would like to see additional plantings on this hillside. Please be aware that it is a hillside adjacent to the highway and more salt tolerant species should be used.

In general, I agree with the basic plan and the plants you're recommending. I do have some concerns about the Bradford pear. Bradford pear has been used extensively as a specimen tree since the mid-1950's. A tree native to China, some recent studies tend to suggest we should start using less Bradford pears in the landscape. They are fast growing and have tight branching patterns that tend to split in high winds and heavy snow and ice situations. Because of these characteristics, they tend to be short-lived, generally failing after twenty years.

Instead of the Bradford pear, there are several alternatives that would work. A possible list for your consideration is:

1. *Malus* 'Adirondack' (Adirondack Crabapple)
2. *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance' (Autumn Brilliance Apple Serviceberry)
3. *Crataegus crus-galli* vari 'inermis' (Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn)
4. *Magnolia x* 'Butterflies'

Malus 'Adirondack': a narrow, upright flowering crabapple; 20 feet tall; hardy in zones 4 to 8; one of the most profusely flowering of all crabapples, flowers begin

as a carmine bud and opens to a large, white flower; disease resistant; attracts birds; attractive small orange-red fruit; North American native, frost tolerant, urban tolerant; requires virtually no pruning; sun; will tolerate drought; Winner of 2002 Gold Medal Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; highly rated by the International Ornamental Crabapple Society.

Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance': a small tree (20-25 feet tall); fragrant showy large, white flowers in spring; attracts birds; easy to care for; sun to partial sun; intense yellow-orange-red fall color; edible berries; North American hybrid; adapted to a wide range of soil with some drought tolerance although prefers moist.

Crataegus crus-galli vari 'inermis': the Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn is a small, thornless tree with beautiful, single white flowers in late spring; abundant red fruit produced in masses in fall; glossy green summer foliage turns a showy orange in fall; very disease resistant, including rust diseases; no major insect problems; exfoliating bark provides winter interest; 15-20 feet tall and wide; adaptable to many soil types; sun; drought tolerant; zones 4-7.

Magnolia x 'Butterflies': Small tree matures to an upright, pyramidal specimen tree; best yellow-flowering magnolias, flowers are up to 4-5" across, bloom for 7-9 days; light-yellow-green foliage leaves mature to a lustrous dark-green; no serious insect or disease problems.

On this particular site, I'm recommending substituting the Bradford pear with the Malus 'Adirondack' because of the upright growth habit, its disease resistance and urban tolerance. It basically requires no pruning. Also included in this letter are the other trees you may want to consider in future design.

Sincerely,

Pete Muroski
Dover Planning Board