

THE ABERJONA INITIATIVE

CAROLINE CLARK, GRACE CLARK,
MARINA DERROUCHE, AND JAIME WILSON

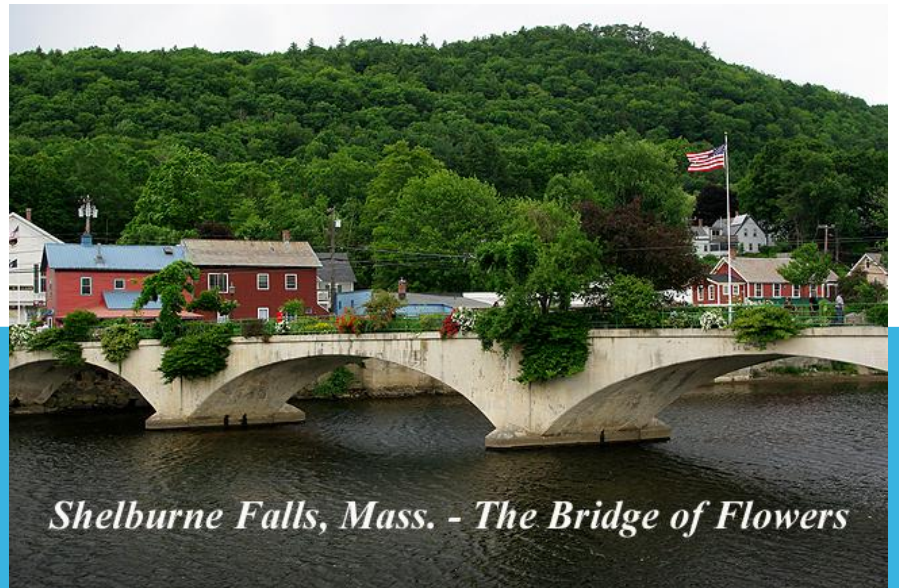
“Lawn to water’s edge is
no longer considered
ecologically
sustainable...”



THE GRANT

“This grant would provide funding for the development of a Landscape Master Plan. The design process would include a study of the existing conditions; review the Kellaway Plan, a meeting to solicit suggestions for improvements and a meeting to present the Plan. [A] Plan, [with] sections and three dimensional illustrations would be generated to allow people to envision the potential specific landscape improvements would have on the Town Center. Carrying out this master plan would provide a venue for outdoor activities and events in and around the Town Center. In other communities in Massachusetts, such as Shelburne Falls, with its Bridge of Flowers, beautiful unique landscapes draw visitors who support local businesses.” -Landscape Master Plan, Juli Riemenschneider

SHELBURNE FALLS



Shelburne Falls, Mass. - The Bridge of Flowers

EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC ART IN SURROUNDING AREAS

Newton Free Library



Shelburne Falls - Bridge Of Flowers

Springfield Sculpture Garden

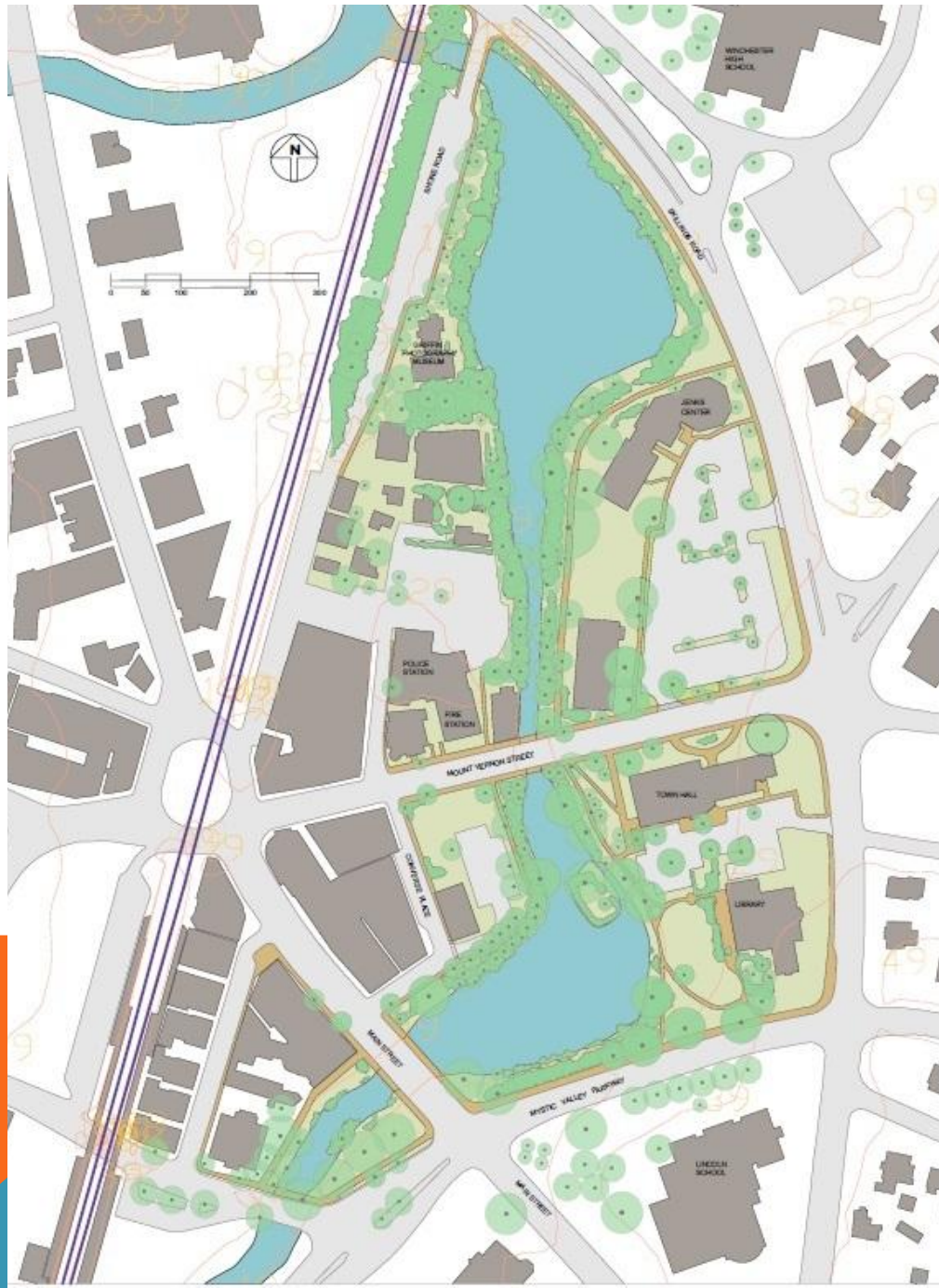




Glass window/doorways, displayed
in a small park in Queens , New
York

Sculpture located in a small park in
Syracuse, New York








**The general
area this
initiative will
benefit**

All drawings of Final Plan
are credited to Juli
Riemenschneider and
Sara Bourque.

Management Plan Strategies:

- Eradicate small stands of Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed, Loosestrife to prevent spread (urgent).
- Preserve existing trees by removing the Bittersweet vine that is strangling them (urgent).
- Minimize disruption of plant cover on banks: disturbed soils are conducive to the spread of invasive plants.
- Revegetate areas where invasives are removed. Where possible provide dense shade at ground level: it limits the growth of some invasive plants.
- Remove buckthorn, especially in areas where it is out competing native shrubs.
- Remove bittersweet and buckthorn and revegetate with native plants (removal to include continual monitoring and additional removal).
- Identify areas where views should be retained and prioritize removals and revegetation in these areas.

LEGEND

-  Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*
-  Asiatic Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*
-  Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*
-  Mulberry, *Morus* species
-  Bittersweet nightshade, *Solanum dulcamara*
-  Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*
-  Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*
-  Common Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*
Glossy Buckthorn, *Rhamnus fraxile*
-  Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*




Summary

A combined map of all the invasive species currently surrounding the Mill and Judkins pond area.

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THE PROBLEM

In the past years, the once beautiful area surrounding the Aberjona River has become overgrown with wilting trees and other deteriorating foliage. The shores are no longer accessible, scenic views are now masked by dead branches, and pathways are littered with garbage and brush.

The bottom of the slide features a decorative design with three overlapping geometric shapes: a large light blue triangle on the right, a medium teal triangle on the left, and a smaller orange triangle in the bottom-left corner.


THE GOAL

In an effort to bring back the natural beauty of Winchester, the Conservation Commission has proposed a grant to fund a cleanup of the area surrounding the Aberjona. We can implement gorgeous walkways and provide a space to display public art, turning the town into a true destination for local tourists.



THE HISTORY

Arthur Griffin, the founder of the Griffin Museum, documented Winchester in the 1900's. At this time, the river and the surrounding areas were flourishing with flowers and foliage. Griffin photographed the beauty, and now, several decades later, these gorgeous locations have essentially deteriorated. The following images are Griffin's work (left) compared to today's views (right).





Photograph by Arthur Griffin
View of Griffin from across Judkins Pond

More expansive view from
across Judkins Pond





Photographed by Arthur Griffin
Closer view of behind the Griffin Museum

Expansive view of behind the Griffin,
exposing more of the pond





View from behind the library, looking toward the center of town

Photograph by Arthur Griffin
Across Mill pond, looking into
Winchester Center





“Waterside” of Mill Pond and Town Hall

Photograph by Arthur Griffin
Mill Pond and Town Hall





Photograph by Arthur Griffin
The beauty of Mill Pond

Similar location along Mill Pond, behind
Winchester Public Library



Thank you to The Arthur
Griffin Museum for allowing
us to these photographs!



THE FIRST STEPS

At a Town Meeting this spring, members of the community were presented with the issues and ideas regarding the sanctuary around the Aberjona, specifically the Mill and Judkins Ponds. A plan was discussed to rejuvenate the land around these areas, bringing back the natural beauty of the river.



The following photographs are from
the meeting with the public



Presenting Plan to the people who are very
involved in Winchester. these people share the
same views in wanting the same end goal.



Elaine describes the color coded sections of town and how they are affected by the bodies of water closest to them as well as how each body of water is connected throughout Winchester.

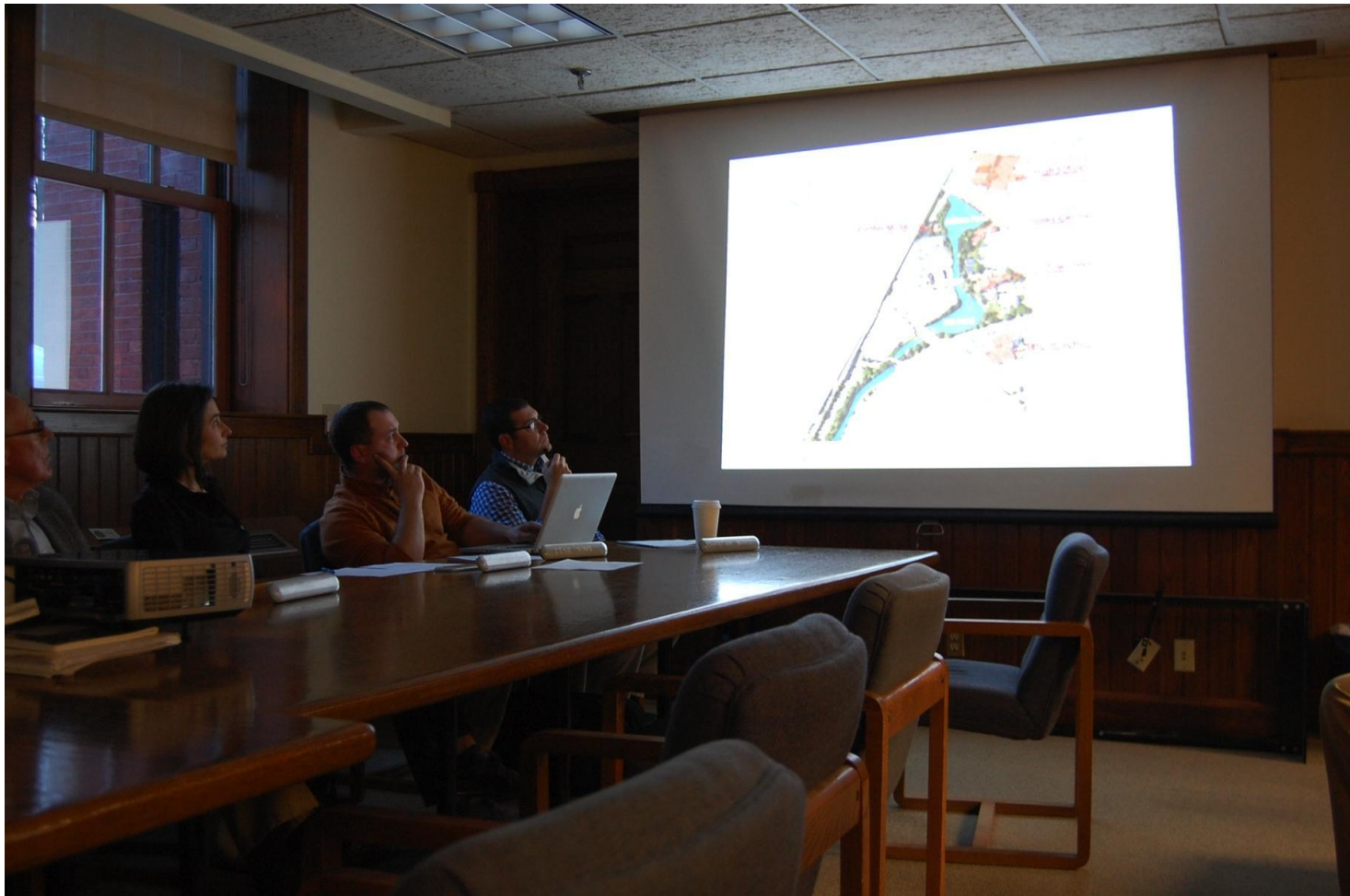


Juli speaks on behalf of the grant one last time before opening the floor to some questions.

The following photographs are from another town meeting



Juli presenting her role in the plan as well as explaining the grant.

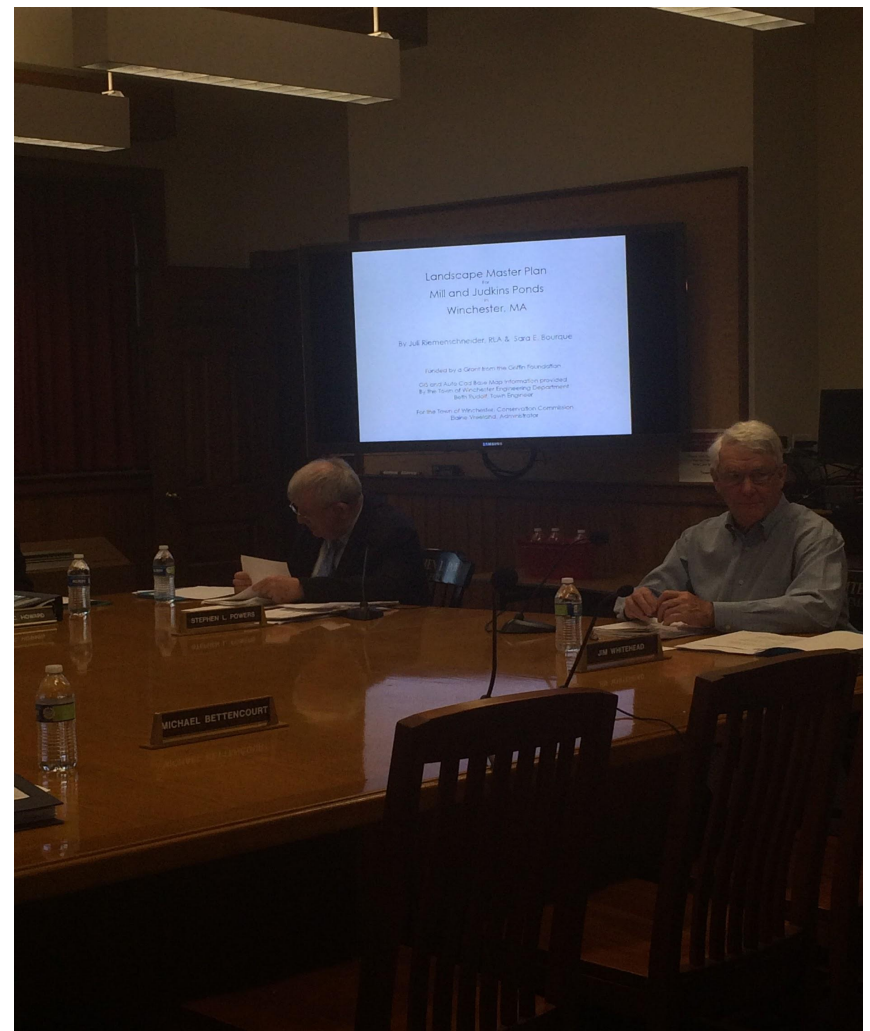


The people of Winchester view the plan and begin discussing it with those around them.



Sara Bourque talks about her and Juli's plan

The following are pictures from the Board of Selectmen Meeting



Board members
reviewing the packet
that explains the grant
and the plan



Juli and Elaine presenting the Landscape Master Plan to the Board of Selectmen at the Town Hall. Sarah Bourque is on Elaine's right.

The following slides are our
questions asked in the
interview with Juli
Riemenschneider.




WHAT IS YOUR SPECIFIC ROLE IN THIS PROJECT? HOW DID THIS PROJECT UNFOLD?

A long time ago, my friend Sara and I realized a need to improve the landscape around the ponds, and I got a grant from the college that I work at to do an inventory of the invasive species around the ponds. We did the inventory and Elaine Vreeland with the conservation commission used that inventory to start to get rid of the invasive plants around the pond. Last fall, Elaine asked me whether I'd be interested in applying for the Griffin Foundation grant to do a landscape master plan for around the town.




PLEASE EXPLAIN THE DESIGN AND HOW THE LANDSCAPE WILL BE ARRANGED AS WELL AS ITS DIFFERENT 'LAYERS'?

The town engineer gave us GIS data, which is mapping, in a series of layers. There's topography, there's vegetation, there's buildings... She also gave us an AutoCAD, which is a computer drawing program of the same information in a format that we can manipulate. So Sara and I both used different drawing programs, but we were able to use the AutoCAD to draw what we needed to show on our plans. In the final design we drew in where we thought different plants should go. Because it is in layers, it is very easy to see the relationship in the drawings, because you can overlay things by turning layers on and off.



HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN YOUR JOB THAT YOU ARE INVOLVED IN TODAY?

I was in college, as a fine arts major, and I decided that I liked what I was doing, but was looking for a career. So I looked at all different career in which I could use my artistic background, and this was one that really appealed to me, because it is very sculptural, and there's a lot of drawing in it. To me, it is valuable because it gives you the opportunity to improve things and make things beautiful, and help people through design.



With the help of the public, fellow citizens of Winchester, and maybe even surrounding towns, we can create an environment that exudes what this town is known for: its beauty, history, and knowledge.

-Grace, Caroline, Marina, and Jaime

