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**TOWN OF ACTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720**

CERTIFICATE 2444

Pursuant to Chapter 40C of the General Laws of Massachusetts and the Historic Districts Bylaw of the Town of Acton, the Acton Historic District Commission hereby issues a

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

For the work described in the Application of the same number.

Applicant: Town of Acton, Sustainability Office
Address: 472 Main Street, Acton, MA, 01720
Property Owner: Town of Acton
Location of Work: 468 Main Street, Acton, MA

Telephone: (978) 929-6515
Email: sustainability@actonma.gov
Email/Telephone: Same
District: Center West South

Description of Proposed work: Installation on the property located behind the house of informational signage, a mini-climate library located on a post, and raised garden beds, all as described and depicted in the attachments to the application.

Finding:

The governing way is Main Street in Acton.

Conclusions and Requirement:

1. The proposed signage, mini-climate library and raised garden beds, to the extent they can be seen from Main Street, are appropriate for the site.
2. The proposed signage, mini-climate library and raised garden beds, shall be composed of the materials designated in the application and its attachments and installed/located as indicated in the application and attachments, both of which are attached hereto.

When completed, the work outlined above must conform in all particulars to the Application approved on January 14, 2025. The applicant may proceed with the proposed work provided all other approvals have been obtained, including a Building Permit if necessary. This Certificate is valid for work commenced within one year of the date of issuance. An extension or renewal of the Certificate may be granted at the discretion of the Commission. If a property changes ownership during the time the Certificate is in force, a new owner who wishes to continue the authorized work must apply to have a new Certificate issued in his or her own name.

The Decision only applies to matters within the HDC's jurisdiction. Any action permitted hereunder may still be subject to or require other approval or permits from other governmental boards, agencies or bodies having jurisdiction such as the Building Department, Planning Department, Health Department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals, as the case may be.

Any appeal of this decision must be made by filing a written request to the Town Clerk within 20 days of the date this decision was filed.

Application received: December 4, 2024
Certificate approved by HDC Vote (4-0)

Date of Public Meeting: N/A
Date: January 14, 2025

Arthur Leavens

Filed by Arthur Leavens, Member
for Historic District Commission

Date: January 15, 2025

Copies to: Applicant, Building Commissioner, Planning Board, Select Board, HDC File

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF ACTON, MA
2024 DEC -4 PM 2:06

Application # 2444

TOWN OF ACTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE

This information will be publicly posted on the Town of Acton website docushare.

Pursuant to Ch. 40C of the General Laws of Massachusetts, application is hereby made for issuance of the following Certificate for work within a Local Historic District (please check one):
Cert. of Appropriateness (Building Alteration/Sign/Fence/Change of Ownership) Fee: \$10
Cert. of Appropriateness (Building Addition other than deck/New Bldg/Demolition)Fee: \$50
Cert. of Hardship (for either category of Appropriateness) Fee: \$10 or \$50 (as appropriate)
Cert. of Non-Applicability No Fee

Fees waived for non-profit or municipal applicants.

Applicant: Sustainability Office

Telephone: 978-929-6515

Address: 468 Main St.

E-mail: sustainability@actonma.gov

Property owner and address: Town of Acton
(if different from applicant)

Contact information: Andrea Becerra
Sustainability Director

Location of Work:

District: Center West South

No. Street 468 Main St.

Description of Work: (See website Instructions regarding information that is here required)

The undersigned hereby certifies that the information on this application and any plans submitted herewith are correct, and constitute a complete description of the work proposed. By my signature below, I acknowledge that this application and all its data will be publicly posted on the Town of Acton website docushare.

Signature of applicant Andrea Becerra Date: 11/21/2024

Application received by _____ for HDC Date: _____

COA approved/CNA issued by _____ for HDC Date: _____

Description:

The Red House looks like a typical house in Acton, complete with a front and backyard – the property provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate what sustainability can look like at home in a central location in Town, adjacent to Town Hall and the Acton Memorial Library. The Town and Acton Water District have embarked on an effort called “Greening the Red House” to transform what currently looks like private property into a welcoming, wildlife-certified, educational space for the community, complete with two rain gardens, a rehabilitated meadow filled with native perennials for pollinators, and water-wise elements, including a rain barrel to capture water for the garden.

In the back of the property, as indicated in the diagram, we hope to install a “Little Library,” which will become home to books related to sustainability and the environment, a raised garden bed, a main sign explaining the layout of the property, and three smaller signs (see Image 1 for the diagram). The Town received grant funds from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to hire landscapers and remove invasives throughout the property, plant natives, create a rain garden, and plant meadow seeds, setting the foundation for a healthy biodiverse meadow in the backyard. Meadows take approximately three years to become fully established. The team behind the project will monitor the growth of the meadow in the coming years, under the guidance of Conservation and with the help of dedicated volunteers. MAPC recently reached out to notify the team that there are additional funds they can allocate towards this project. We are seeking HDC approval to purchase these items in light of the new funding.

A. Diagram(s) or sketch(es) of the proposed work:

Map identifying the location of the proposed items:

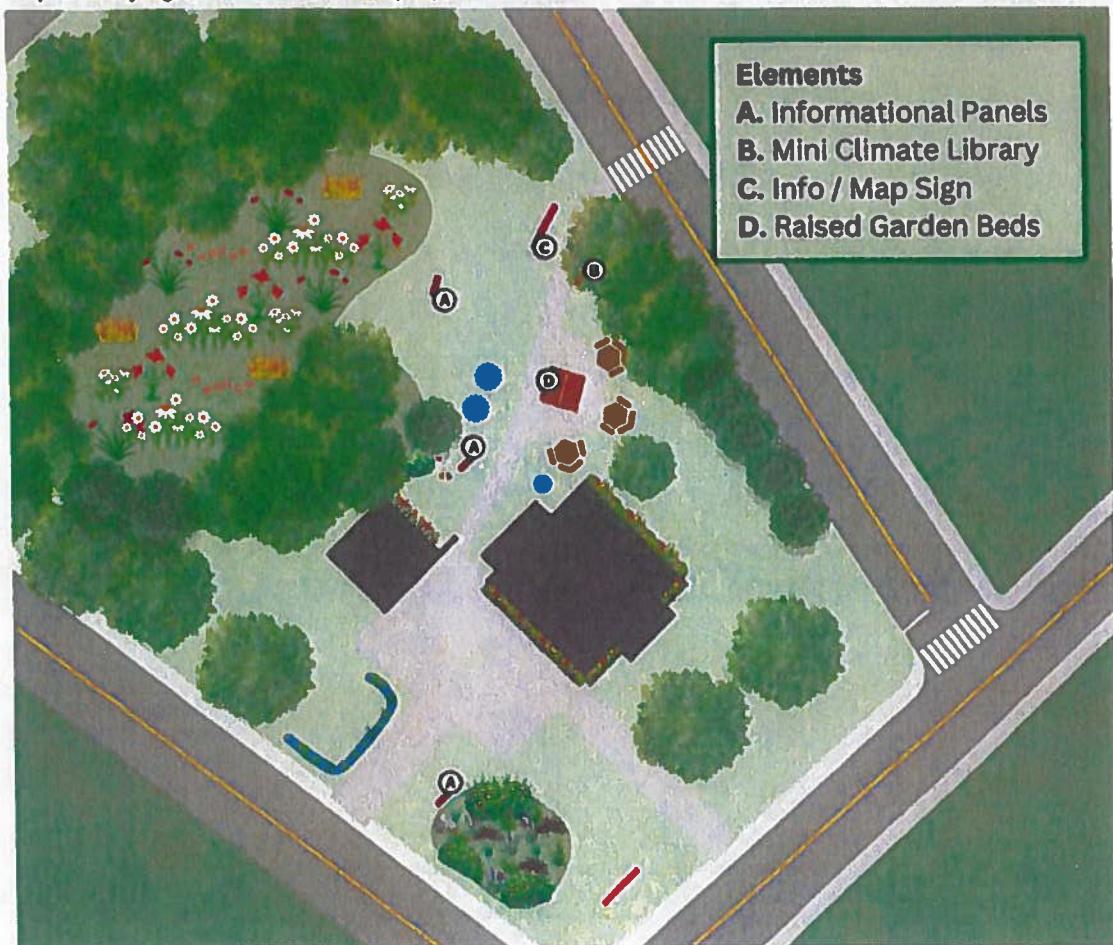


Image 1. Diagram of the Red House

1. Informational Panels and Map Sign (A & C in the Diagram above)

The informational panels (three in total) and map sign (one in total) will be made of custom high pressure laminate. The panels themselves will be transparent, encasing the designed signs. The posts holding the signs will be black powder coated aluminum, attached with a mounting plate relative to the size of the panel. For typography, we are considering Arial or Calibri.

Specs of the smaller informational panels (three total)

- Panel size: 10"H x 14"W
- Post specs: 3" x 3" post, 44.5" above ground, 15.5" below ground

Specs for the larger map sign:

- Panel size: 24" H x 36" W
- Post specs: 3" x 3" post, 44.5" above ground, 15.5" below ground

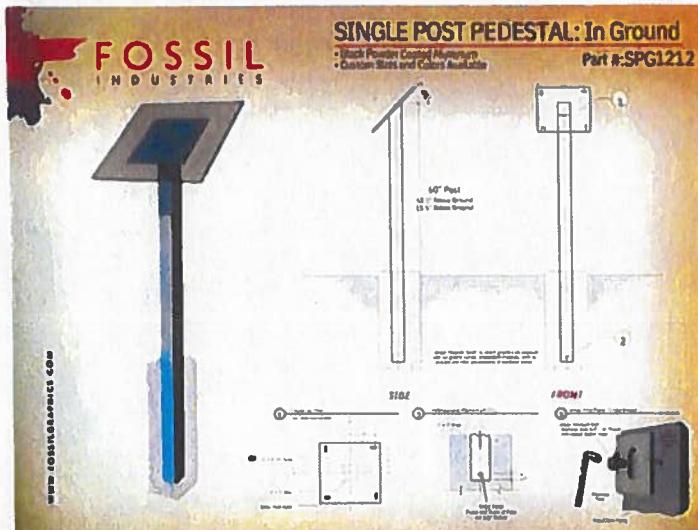


Image 2. Sample Larger Map Sign and Post

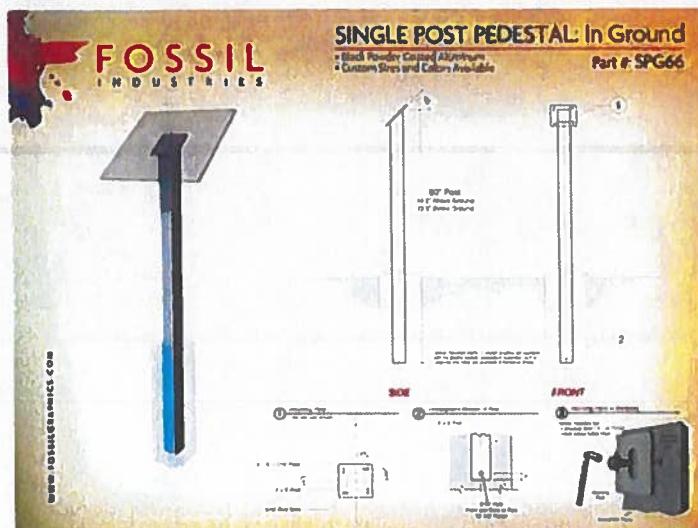


Image 3. Sample Smaller Informational Panel and Post

While the signs depicted below are larger (Image 2 & Image 3), they are a good representation of what the signs will look like:

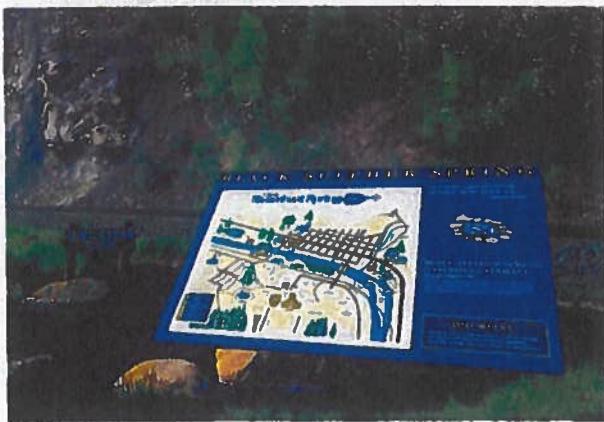


Image 4. Sample 1 informational panel

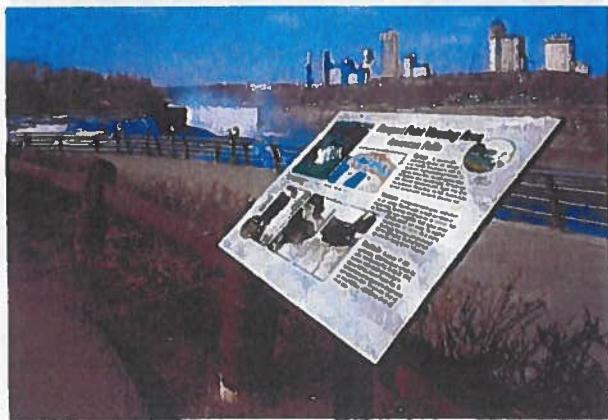


Image 5. Sample 2 informational panel

2. Little Library (B in the diagram above)

The little library will be made with pine, plywood and a metal roof for extra water protection. The wooden portion of the library will be painted the same exact color as the "Red House" on 468 Main St. The base of the Little Library will match the base of the post for the panels. The post for the Little Library will be galvanized steel.

Specs of the the Little Library:

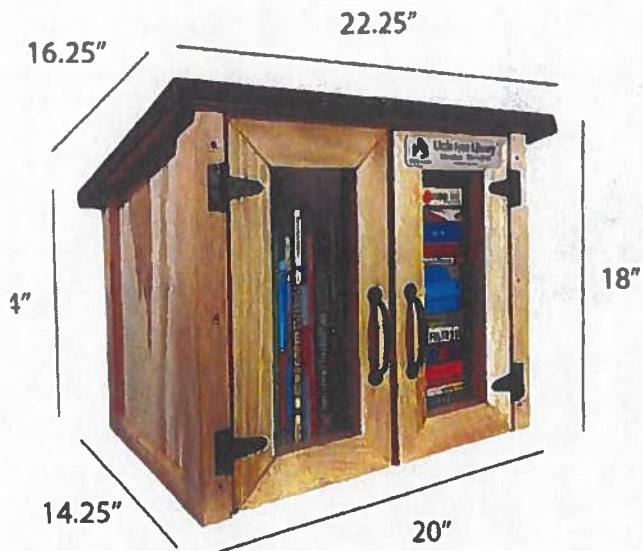


Image 6. Little Library

Specs of the base of the Little Library:

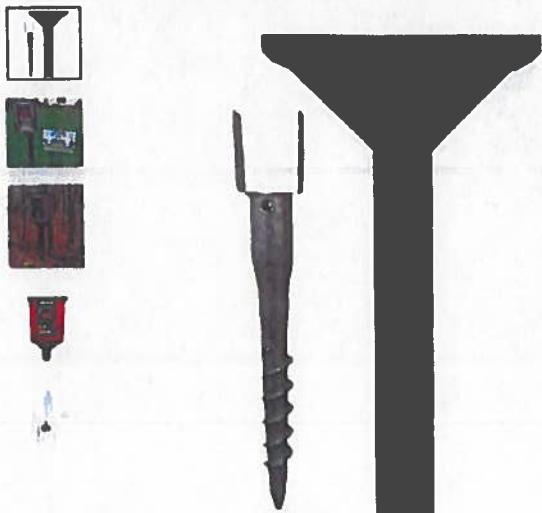


Image 7. Post for Little Library

- Topper: 15" wide x 5" tall
- Dimensions: Post: 31.5" long. Metal screw: total 27" long/ 22" long from where the post sits

3. Wheel-Chair Accessible Raised Garden Bed (D in the Diagram above)

Two raised garden beds, as shown by D in the diagram above (Image 1), will be wheelchair accessible. The garden beds are made of cedar and they are lined by aluminum and powder-coated aluminum corners as shown in Image 6.

- 48" W x 24" D x 34" H
- Front planting area: 46" W x 8.5" D x 3.75" H
- Back planting area: 46" W x 13.5" D x 9.5" H
- 29.25" clearance for a wheelchair

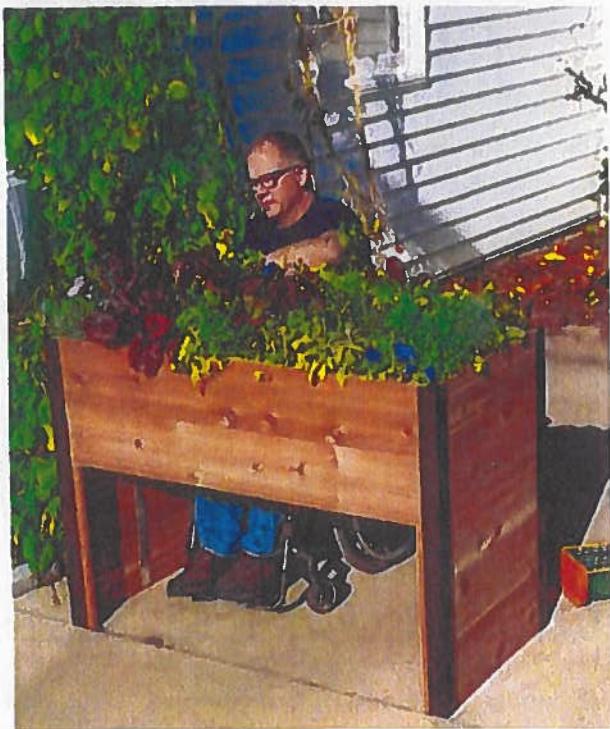


Image 8. Accessible raised garden bed



Image 9. Demonstration of materials for raised garden bed

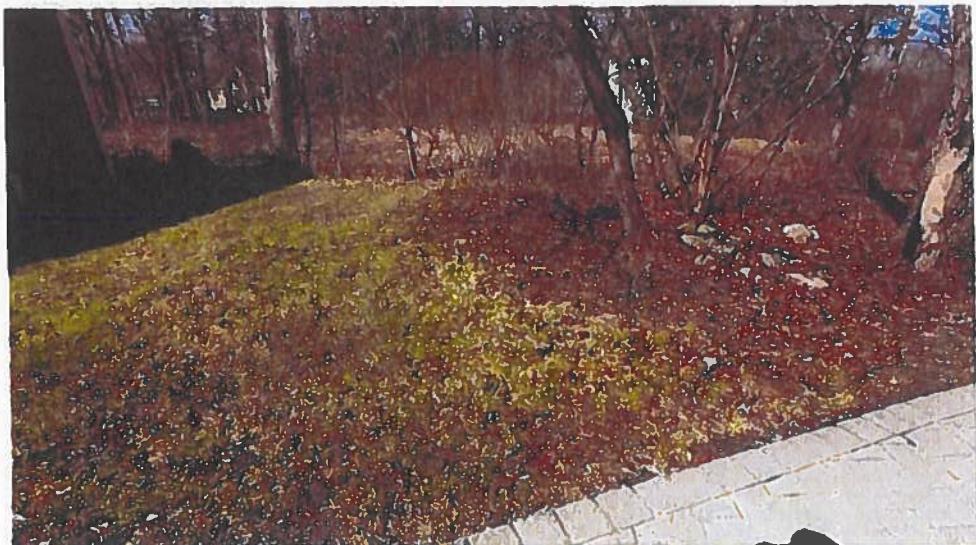
B. Photographs of the existing conditions.



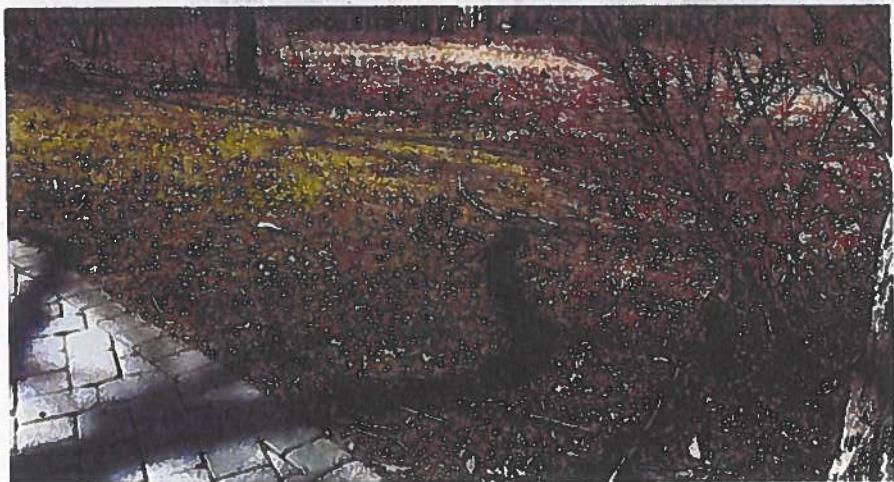
Existing Conditions Info Panel 1



Existing Conditions Info Panel 2



Existing Conditions Info Panel 3



Existing Conditions Map Sign

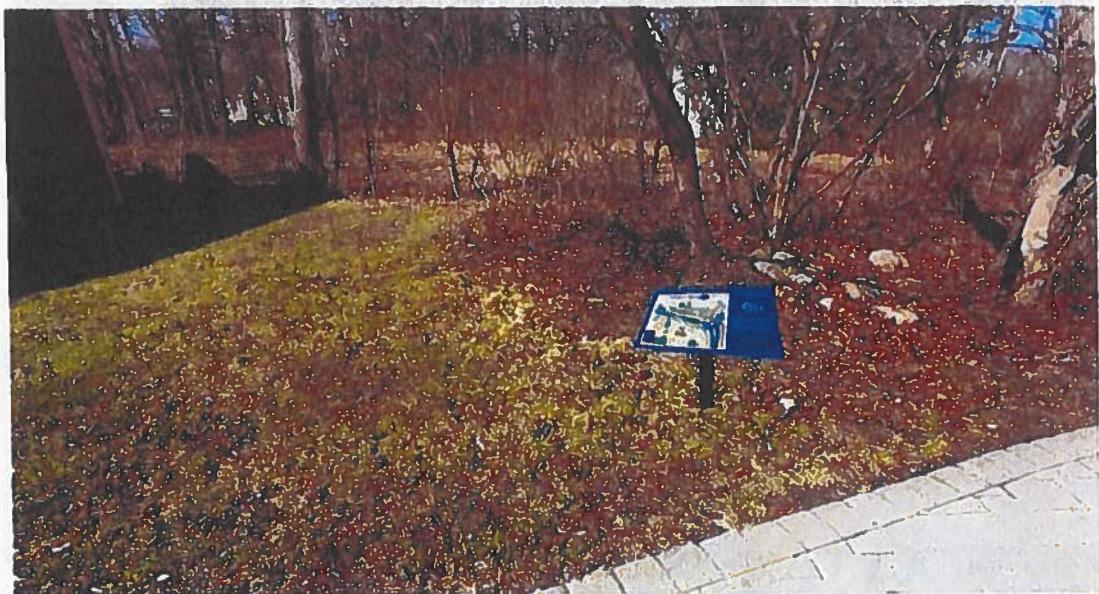


Existing Conditions Little Library



Existing Conditions Raised Garden Beds

Example Images in Context:



Example Info Panel 1



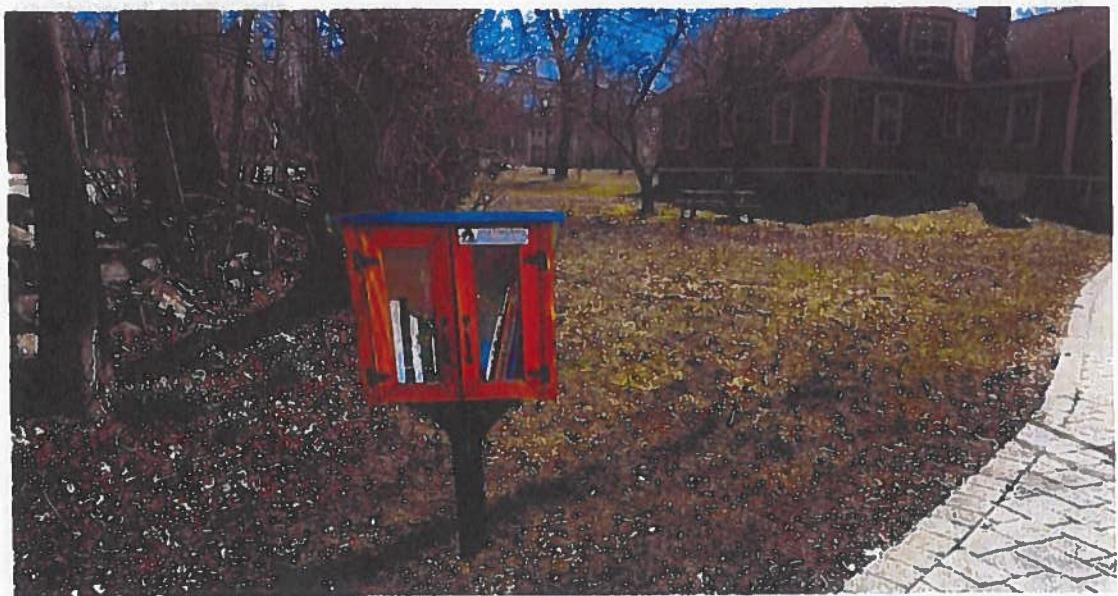
Example Info Panel 2



Example Info Panel 3



Example Map Sign



Example Little Library



Example Raised Garden Beds