

Client: Stow Garden Club

Designers: JoAnn Robinson
Sally Naish

Design Completed: Spring 2006

Installation: Fall 2007

This municipal building, constructed in 1989, presented a very large structural mass with few plantings to help integrate it into the site. The initial landscape plan was unsuccessful. The Stow Garden Club, responsible for the maintenance of this civic building's landscape, requested design support from COGdesign. The design team of JoAnn Robinson and Sally Naish also addressed concerns about significant drainage problems, an unsightly drainage area at the building entrance, and the limited financial resources of the town and garden club.

To create a more welcoming arrival experience, the COG designers used plantings of appropriate scale and form to bring them more into scale with the building. The designers also sought to ameliorate the drainage situation and use plants that would slow and disperse the flow of water and mask the rip-rap and French drain. With year-round seasonal interest for building occupants and visitors in mind, they retained existing trees and used them as points of departure in the development of the color scheme. Plants were selected for their hardiness. Low maintenance characteristics were essential and a high density of plantings overall to cover the ground and reduce weed germination.

