

Newtown Friends Meeting
PLACEMAKING EXERCISE
April 3, 2021

Tally of responses by category (in order of preference) **(N=48)**

Site 1 – Court Street Entrances (West side)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
14	Cut/lower hedge	3	Leave hedge high
8	More/better signage	1	Remove/trim shrubs around Meetinghouse
6	Keep small entrance gates	1	Remove old gate
7	Move Peace Pole/expand pollinator garden/benches to sunny front area		
5	Install walkway by metal gates	1	Remove/relocate shed
4	Love the big trees along driveway		
3	Re-point/repair/maintain stone columns		
2	Install flower by metal gates		
2	Move/make historic sign bigger		

Site 2 – Proposed Court Street side parking lot (SW quadrant)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
9	Not as bad as I thought/good use of unused space/minimizes tree removal and maximizes ease of parking	9	Like it the way it is/preserves view/ambiance of Meetinghouse
2	Could use paved lot for a gathering area	4	Get rid of spur and plant trees & lawn
2	Pervious surface would be better	2	Avoid snowplowing – use Zoom
2	Saves significant trees	2	Too much asphalt
2	Re-do walkway—leave spur pavement	1	Encourage ride-sharing
1	Way-finding signage needed to identify main entrance	1	Only pave parking lot by current entrance/wait & see if Court St. lot is necessary
1	If proposed lot is built, add benches and plant garden facing toward building (best view)	1	Front lot may attract shoppers, etc. to park at NFM
		1	Proposed lot turning radius is too small
		1	No space for mini-vans
		1	Blocks fire truck access
		1	Lot is too close to building

Site 3 – South burial ground (South area behind Meetinghouse)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
4	Screen metal fencing/neighbors' yards with shrubs or vines	7	Keep as is
5	Add benches/trees/ gathering meditative area in graveyard	1	Clean up brush pile
1	Add labyrinth with Quaker SPICES signs among graves	1	Fencing is ugly
1	Add dog poop bag station and trash can	1	Replace grass with cover crop
		1	Take out flagstones where gate used to be

Site 4 – Area behind Meetinghouse (South side)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
9	Add patio off back of gathering room (on ground or at top of stairs); connect stairs to graveyard with handicapped access; connect parents to playground view	2	Cyclone fencing is ugly
5	Meetinghouse covered porch is underutilized/more benches/lawn chairs	2	Remove porch flagstone (trip hazard); lacks ADA access
3	Add picnic tables/portable tables	1	Remove evergreens (hemlocks?)
2	Add benches on slabs under yews		
2	Add walkway from proposed parking area to south porch entrance with gray pavers to match porch pavers		
2	Improve back view of gathering room (e.g., add shutters, etc.)		
2	Label our trees		
1	Add solar panels on gathering room roof		

Question: What is the best entrance to the building?

Site 5 – Green space between burial grounds & back of property (SE quadrant)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
5	In water retention area, add plants & trees that like to be wet/rain garden	3	Scruffy looking (make area more welcoming)
2	Add benches	2	Change/remove chain link fencing
2	Create an outdoor natural amphitheater	2	Move playground and put parking in back
1	Move Peace Garden here	1	Didn't know this area was here
1	Add picnic tables		
1	Plant flowers/low maintenance pollinators		
1	Nice hill for children to play on		

Question: How many trees will still be here in 25-50 years? What do we need to plant now?

Site 6 – Northeast burial ground (East of Meetinghouse)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
4	Add more benches	8	Nice graveyard—leave as is
2	Fencing is problematic—plant bushes	2	Fencing is fine
1	Make walking path from parking lot to playground	1	Swale is a good idea
		1	Gates in fencing are good
		1	Forsythia by Hicks [gate?] is too big

Question: How can cremation ashes be accommodated?

Site 7 – Playground (SE quadrant)

#	<i>Additive comments</i>	#	<i>No action or reduction comments</i>
3	Make accommodations for differently-abled (e.g., swing, ramp)	7	Great as is
1	Expand playground area	1	Move if necessary to accommodate parking in back SE corner
1	Make playground benches more conversational (e.g., move back a bit)		
1	Needs some shade & no-fall zones		

Question: Was broken bench repaired?

Site 8 – Expansion of parking lot at current entrance (NE area)

#	Additive comments	#	No action or reduction comments
9	Best place for additional parking; parking for handicapped & visitors; least bad place to add parking	1	Leave as is
4	Hide new condos with plantings/trees	1	Ask condo developer for driveway easement (share driveways and improve traffic flow)
2	Breakup expanse of paving with green (e.g., planters, low shrubs, etc.)	1	Disassemble shed/remove shed to create more parking
2	Plant quality trees	1	Drip line for trees too close to pavement
1	Improve fencing and/or plantings by fence		
2	Separate plantings & cars (additional cars at entrance will create pedestrian hazard)		
1	Protect porch columns from cars		
1	Grass is scrubby anyway		

Questions: How many sq. ft. is this lot? Would this area be paved—or permeable pavers? Leveled? Accessible to gravediggers?

Site 9 – Current entrance (North side)

#	Additive comments	#	No action or reduction comments
1	Add bike racks	4	Welcoming appearance with covered porch and benches—keep as is
1	Screen in and/or enclose porch	2	Concern about traffic patter/turn around/exiting while others enter
1	Add foundation plantings	1	Spaces seem to narrow for vans/handicapped accessible vehicles
1	If lot is expanded and pervious, create area to deal with muddy feet		

Site 10 – Ancient trees bordering driveway and proposed condos (NW area)

#	Additive comments	#	No action or reduction comments
3	Keep shed as visible barrier	6	Keep trees—LOVE trees
2	Add tall border plants to screen from condos	2	Re-use stone walkway stones at end of shed
1	Plant low shrubs or perennial border to indicate “No Parking”		
1	Add benches for gathering outside by trees		

Question: The current lighting poles face the Stockberger parking area. Remove?