

Priory screening Planting  
Conservation Committee comments  
April 15, 2021

Screening is proposed for buildings north of new track originally permitted as temporary.

Proposed is a linear row of *Laurus nobilis*, the European relative to our native California Bay. This tree can grow to reach 40 feet which is a height much greater than needed for this screening

European bay provides no advantage over locally native shrubs that would provide valuable habitat as well as screening. Our native bay should not be substituted because of SOD. Both might get too much sun with this SW exposure. Toyon would be the most well suited for this area, but other good choices are:

- Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*) to 15'-18'
- Lemon Berry Bush (*Rhus integrifolia*) can reach 18'
- Hollyleaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) to 18'
- Catalina Cherry (*Prunus lyoni*) to 25'-30'.

We strongly recommend not planting these new screening plants like soldiers in a row. The Town prefers a more naturalistic staggered design to complement our semi-rural surroundings.

Adjacent are some badly butchered Douglas Firs, mutilated over many years to keep them from encroaching on the power lines. It is unfortunate that this line was not undergrounded as was done nearby in construction for the new faculty housing. Since the line remains, it would be a great improvement to remove these trees and replace them with something more suitable in height. This would save the cost of ongoing topping.

Submitted by Judith Murphy