

## **Scala, Mary Joy**

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**From:** Scala, Mary Joy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 11:23 AM  
**To:** Christine Colley (christinehcolley@gmail.com); Scott Colley (scottcolley@hughes.net)  
**Subject:** 611 Preston Place

I received your letter date May 8, 2015 that describes your adjustments to your work plan. I hereby approve administratively the proposals as described.

Good luck on the remainder of your project.

**Mary Joy Scala, AICP**

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8 May 2015

611 Preston Place

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Mary Joy Scala,

We have removed about a foot of layered gravel, asphalt, and pea gravel from the driveway. It is now clear that lowering the grade in the side entry court would disturb the roots of existing trees, and we have, accordingly, abandoned approved plans to put a brick terrace there. We would like to make the following adjustments to the approved work plan:

- 1) Put in an informal path of flagstones from the drive gate to the side entry. Local soapstone like that on the hearths and porch could be laid directly into the existing mulch surface with minimal disruption of roots. Irregular stones would be laid in a random stepping stone path about 32" wide.
- 2) Extend and widen the front entry walk along the front edge of the porch from the new gate at the driveway to meet the existing brick walk along the NE side of the house from the kitchen stairs to the porch. At present, the kitchen walk ends abruptly in the mulch at the end of the porch. We would like to put a small brick-in-sand terrace in the mulched area where these walks meet. The area is crosshatched in red on the accompanying drawing. On the side toward the house, the terrace is bounded by straight lines parallel to walls of the house, while the NE boundary is an irregular curve edged with stones salvaged from elsewhere on the property.

The proposed design would provide a comfortably wide 48" walkway into the front yard linked to the porch opposite each existing front door by two short walkways across the 48" wide planting bed. The straight lines of the walkways would link the garden design to the original structure of the house; the curving outer edge of the terrace would provide a transition to the natural areas of the yard. Like the plan approved earlier, these revisions leave the existing front single and double gates in place, but accommodate guests with a widened entry from the driveway where guests will park. The old entry paths are impractical for guest access since lack of sidewalk, randomly parked cars, and tree roots make those routes treacherous.

The proposed terrace treats the existing lower walls of the old "icehouse" as a garden focal point. A lovely old deciduous azalea and other plants have already been replanted to "frame" the area. Given the change of levels and 3.5' picket fence approved to replace the existing solid fence and split rail along the frontage, the terrace will not be visible from the street.

Note: it now appears approved geothermal wells will go into the front yard mulched area rather than the drive, due to problems re-locating utilities. The area intended for this terrace will be torn up by machinery—with any luck, next week—then the wells will be re-landscaped and invisible when complete and in service.

Christine and Scott Colley

Yours, Christine + Scott Colley

611 Preston Place, Charlottesville, 22903

Proposed revisions to approved changes

Garden and terrace

