

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 4, 2017
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Voelker, Archibald, Vitarelli, Presnick-Lyon
and Dillman

ABSENT: Cacace, O'Donnell and Meyerjack

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2016 as amended, by Ms. Voelker and seconded by Ms. Archibald. The correction being on page 4 under Liaison reports the book that was suggested to read was titled "Little Pink

House” and in the next paragraph the sentence should read “two damaged lights” not “to damaged lights”. On page 3, the words “and several areas” were added after around the wall.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Sign Subcommittee meeting held on December 21, 2016 by Ms. Archibald and seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES – 2017

Members reviewed the regular meeting dates for 2017 and after some discussion decided to change the meeting time from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. beginning with the next meeting and the meeting originally dated July 5, 2017 to July 12, 2017. All were in favor of the changes.

The meeting dates for the Sign Subcommittee were approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Article re: London plane trees

Mr. Bonaminio noted that the New York Times article was well written and that the London planes are a good tree. They provide shade and are very tolerant to abuse by salty roads and pruning. Mr. Bonaminio also added that plane trees are getting more difficult to find.

A memo from Mr. Sitko asking the committee to give some thought to new activities and projects they would like to continue and others they would like to change or stop. This list of “priorities” would be discussed and decided upon next month.

BUSINESS

Street Trees

Members spoke of planting more trees on West Main Street to “soften” the appearance of the area. Ms. Voelker suggested planting evergreens in the planters but was told it was difficult to do because they only last a few years. There was also some discussion concerning increasing the watering of the planters during the summer months. Mr. Sitko said it was possible to add to the times Abilities Without Boundaries watered. He said there was enough money in the budget and it could be done. He also said it was a good thing to add to the “priorities” list that was being formed. Members felt that it was important to keep the flowers in good looking condition once they are planted. The two new planters on the trail will also become the responsibility of the TBC. Ms. Archibald suggested planting yellow Cannes with hanging grass in the planters at town hall. She felt this would make a positive statement.

Mr. Sitko added that we are waiting for the next installment of trees at Bartlem Park. Mr. Bonaminio will make sure that they are the proper variety.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that letters to interested parties will be going out soon asking them if they are interested in continuing. There was also some discussion concerning the Bartlem Park “spot”. Member suggested adding drought tolerant plants to the area but others thought that perhaps the sprinkler system could be adjusted to water properly. They wanted to make sure that in the end it would be an attractive garden.

Awards

There was much discussion about the awards program. Some members wondered if it was wise to continue the program or to try something else. Others expressed the same feeling about the “notable trees” program saying that it is getting harder to find trees that would be recognized. There was also discussion concerning Arbor Day. Ms. Dillman wondered if there was something that could be done to encourage people to plant trees. Another suggestion was to limit the number of schools that would receive trees. Perhaps limiting it to one school per year would be better and rotate the recipients each year. Doing this would enable the committee to perhaps plant a larger tree at that particular school. Mr. Bonaminio suggested using Sugar Maples because they are good and wholesome. Ms. Dillman added that one school and a larger tree was a good idea. Ms. Presnick-Lyon thought that planting a large shade tree at the dog park on Waterbury Road was a good idea. Mr. Bonaminio added that it was a good idea and there was water nearby so it could be easily watered. Ms. Dillman added that on the “priorities” list we should add more publicity for the TBC. She also thought that a link on the town website would be a good idea because the TBC needs more recognition.

Discussion

Mr. Bonaminio said that there are lights that are out in the south end and center parklets. A letter should be sent to the town manager’s office.

Ms. Voelker said she felt that the TBC should have more clout. There are many suggestions that are offered on various site plans or signs that go unheeded once applicants leave the TBC meeting. She felt that there should be more enforcement of our sign regulations. It was suggested that a letter be written to the town manager.

Mr. Sitko thanked Ms. Voelker, who will be leaving the committee, for her service to the town.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Vitarelli and seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:43 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee