

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 5, 2017
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Archibald, Vitarelli, Presnick-Lyon, Dillman and O'Donnell

ABSENT: Meyerjack and Cacace,

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 8:03 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 by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2017 meeting and seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Mr. Sitko began by reviewing the duties of the secretary. He noted that he/she would sign correspondence and act as chairman in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman. Jane Presnick-Lyon volunteered to be nominated as secretary.

A motion was made by Ms. Archibald that Jane Presnick-Lyon be elected as secretary of the Town Beautification Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

BUSINESS

Planters

Ms. Archibald began by saying that she will be getting the Pansies soon and will refurbish the planters. She asked Mr. Bonaminio about the best place to get Begonias at a good price. She said she wanted to plant Red Dragon Wing Begonias and needed about 64. Members felt they also should support the nurseries in Cheshire. The Begonias are needed by the end of May to be planted around the first of June. Ms. Archibald also said she would be using Purple Fountain Grass for the center of the planters.

Mr. Sitko added that he has spoken with Abilities without Boundaries and they will once again be doing the watering.

Street Trees

Mr. Sitko noted that it is about time to notify Brookside Landscaping to obtain and plant the trees that the TBC discussed in the fall. The tree locations will be staked in the next several weeks.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said he has heard from almost everyone concerning the Adopt-a-Spot program in a positive way. He has yet to hear from Suburban Garden Club about its intention at the Yellow House.

The committee also noted that the Cheshire Police Dept. does not want plantings in front of their building.

Ms. Vitarelli said that she spoke to someone at Cheshire Animal Control and they are willing to care for plantings, but do not want to purchase them. Ms. Vitarelli will check out plantings and prices and report back to the committee before anything is done.

Awards

Ms. Dillman asked if the committee planned on having an awards ceremony in 2018 because she wanted to get the pictures taken and have them ready. She was told there would be awards next year and to go forward with the pictures.

Arbor Day Activities

Tree plantings at schools

Arbor Day is April 28, 2017. Letters have been sent to the schools informing them that the tree plantings would not take place this year. The committee thought that by stopping for one year they could start again by alternating schools when the program begins again. Perhaps larger trees could be planted instead of several small trees.

They also noted that because of the uncertainty of the schools perhaps it would be wise not to plant any trees. It is something that still has to be decided.

Trees to be appreciated

There is still time to look for trees to be appreciated. Mr. Sitko said if the committee finds a tree to let him know so that a letter can be sent to the property owner. Ms. Archibald and members of the tree committee decided that April 19th would be a good day to go out looking for trees to be noticed.

TBC Priorities for 2017

Parklets

Mr. O'Donnell said that he is still working to have Parks & Recreation update the lighting at the Cook Hill Road and town center parklets. He noted that the lighting is expensive because it needs to be flush with the ground. Mr. Sitko said that the TBC might be able to help with some of the expense.

Awareness of TBC activities

Members felt that the Cheshire Herald does not give adequate publicity. Ms. Dillman said that they prefer receiving paperwork ready to be published.

Adopt-a-Spot

Once again, the committee discussed the upkeep of the sign at Bartlem Park. They decided that since water is not available there it would be best to leave it as is and not make it "adoptable". Mr. Bonaminio suggested planting Hostas because they are water and shade tolerant and then in the fall plant daffodils. Mr. Sitko thought it would be a good idea to do plantings just for Memorial Day. Mr. Bonaminio said he would check the area.

Another priority was to continue to have the Bradford Pear trees pruned.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell began by informing the committee that Mr. Ceccolini, Director of Parks and Recreation will be retiring sometime soon. There is also the possibility that parks & recreation maintenance would be combined with public works. Mr. O'Donnell also said that parks & recreation will be cleaning out the area that runs along Route 10 at Cheshire Park. It is very overgrown and needs cleaning.

Discussion

- a) Mr. Sitko announced that there would be a ground breaking ceremony on Saturday for the final part of the trail. The ceremony will be held on Cornwall Avenue.
- b) Mr. Sitko also told the committee that the town will apply for another STEAP grant for more parking off West Main Street.
- c) Mr. Sitko said that the budget for the TBC for 2017/2018 has been cut by \$300. He presented a budget of \$13,500 but was allotted \$13,200.
- d) In referring to the Welcome to Cheshire Signs, he said that two of them have come down and he would like to get them replaced. He will get more information on price.

Mr. O'Donnell added to keep the Eagle Scouts in mind for future projects.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dillman and seconded by Ms. Vitarelli.

All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:16 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee