

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 8:10 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 Ms. Cacace to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting as corrected and seconded by Mr. Meyerjack. The correction being on page 4 under "Discussion". In the second line the word "unbold" should be omitted. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Dillman to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2017 sign subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter from Jessica Davie from Abilities Without Boundaries was noted. She thanked the town for its support.

BUSINESS

Discussion with Public Works Director

George Noewatne, Director of Public Works came before the committee to discuss the merger with Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Department and to answer questions from the committee. He began by giving an overview of the two departments and said that as of July 1, 2017 the parks crew was now a part of public works. He said that parks has a total of 4 maintenance employees and that they keep the town properties at a very high standard. Mr. Noewatne said that right now things seem to be going smoothly and that the workers also have some very good ideas for maintenance. He doesn't anticipate any major changes at this point. He felt that some shifts will be made during the winter and spring months when one crew will most likely help the other.

Mr. Noewatne said he will support the TBC as best as he can and said that if any issues arose to please contact him.

Ms. Cacace told Mr. Noewatne about a problem at the tennis courts and he said it would be fixed.

Ms. Dillman then asked if a tree that was damaged at the Route 10 and Country Club Road park would be replaced. Mr. Sitko said it would be.

Mr. Bonaminio added that the parklet on the corner of Route 10 and Cook Hill Road was looking nice and thanked Mr. Noewatne for the attention given to it.

Planters

The planters around town are in great shape and continue to be watered. Members felt that the weather this summer was good and the plants thrived.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio noted that the London Plane trees that were planted look good. He said that he will go to West Main Street to see if trees could be planted there in the spring. The committee discussed if they could be planted without infringing on the site line or right-of-way. Mr. Noewatne said he would get the TBC a plan indicating where the right-of-way was.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko told the committee that a plan for the property next to the 7-11 on South Main Street was expected to be filed with the Planning Department. It is the property across from "the wall". This prompted discussion on what to do with the wall and how to improve it. Some suggestions were to paint or plant it.

Mr. Bonaminio then asked if the committee was interested in planting more daffodils again this year in various places in town. They spoke of several places and agreed to buy 500 more daffodils.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that a thank you letter will be sent to the various people that took part in the program this year and asking them to clean up their "spots". It

was also noted that the sign at the Yellow House was in need of repair. Mr. Sitko said he was aware of it and he was told it would be taken care of.

Awards

Pictures of the various locations that had beautiful plantings were shown to the committee. The four very best ones were Viron Rondo Osteria, Vespucci's, Lucinda's and Elim Park. Many others were also nice but these four were outstanding. Others were decorated in front but needed weeding in back. The committee then discussed various sites and why they were outstanding. Ms. Archibald mentioned the Vic House noting that it seemed like old time Cheshire by having a tractor and plantings. They also discussed different categories of awards. Members thought of having the awards ceremony in a larger location. A suggestion by Ms. Dillman was to bring the award to the recipient and have pictures taken and then putting everything into the Cheshire Herald and on the Cheshire web site.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell said that a meeting between public works, Mr. Mark Cunningham and Town Manager Michael Milone and the Parks and Recreation Commission was held.

Mr. O'Donnell then reported on the concert series. He said attendance was good and they are currently working on sponsorship for the events. An ordinance was needed and now that it has been obtained, they can move forward with sponsors. He said they also try to get a variety of performers for the concerts. Eventually, they would also like to have a permanent stage.

Mr. O'Donnell ended by saying that by the end of September interviews will be started for the new recreation director.

Mr. Sitko informed the committee that the former Sunoco station property is being developed. There is also interest in the “Dragon Buffet” property and the “Colorama property” is under contract. This is all good news for Cheshire. He went on to say that staff is currently working with the town attorney on a blight ordinance. Lastly, he said that the State budget will ultimately affect all town budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dillman and seconded by Mr. O’Donnell. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:10 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee