

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MAY 2, 2018
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Archibald, Dillman, Cacace, Presnick-Lyon, Vitarelli and Meyerjack

ABSENT: Fischer and O'Donnell

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting of the Town Beautification Committee to order at 8:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Archibald to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyerjack. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Cacace to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2018 sign subcommittee meeting and seconded by Ms. Archibald. All were in favor. Abstaining were those members that were not present at this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

A notice concerning Town Manager Michael Milone's retirement was brought to the attention of the members. Mr. Milone will be retiring in June and a dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington will be held in his honor on June 21, 2018.

BUSINESS

Site Plan – Chase Bank – 944 South Main Street

The landscaping plan for the new Chase Bank was presented to the members to review and discuss. The plan was approved by Planning & Zoning last week for a nearly 3000 sq. ft. building that would be built where Dragon Buffet was previously. The driveway would share access with Rite Aid Pharmacy. After reviewing the plan which consisted of Red Maples, Sweet Spire, Show Juniper, Fragrant Sumac and other types of plants, members questioned the types of plants that were selected for the planting zone. They wondered if the plants would stand up to the weight of the piles of snow during winter storms.

Planters

Ms. Archibald announced that the Pansies have arrived and that she also received the compost she needed from Mr. Bonaminio. The Begonias have been ordered and the summer plantings will begin in June. Ms. Archibald also reported that she and Mr. Sitko had spoken to Abilities Without Boundaries and the watering schedule for the summer is set. She also noted that Tower Farms gives the TBC a 10% discount on plants purchased.

Street Trees

The tree at the Country Club Road and Route 10 intersection that was removed will be replaced with another Dogwood of the same type.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that all those that received a letter have responded favorably and will continue with their spots. He said he will follow up with another letter. Cheshire High School students are working on a new sign for the Yellow House.

Blighted or Unsafe Premises Ordinance

Mr. Sitko said that the town council talked about the blight ordinance a few weeks ago but sent the proposal back to the committee. He also noted that “blight” means different things to different people. One has to be sensitive to property owners when considering blight. The blight proposal would include businesses as well as residences. Blight would include dilapidated and unsafe structures and unregistered vehicles.

Trees to be Appreciated

TBC members drove around town last week to recognize various trees. The homeowner was then asked if a green ribbon could be placed on their tree and have the honor of being a notable tree. One of the most impressive trees was a Japanese Umbrella Pine at 409 Mountain Road. In addition to the pine, the other notable trees were:

- 64 Buttonwood Circle – White Oak
- 271 Carlton Drive – Japanese Red Maple
- 279 Mountain Road – Japanese Red Maple
- 290 Towpath Lane – Weeping Hemlock
- 693 West Main Street – Saucer Magnolia

Ms. Dillman mentioned that perhaps we could get some publicity from the Cheshire Herald.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko said the town council approved the budget Monday night and he believes that funds for the TBC were not cut.

It was noted that tree pruning is still going on, mostly to clear wires, by Eversource.

Ms. Dillman suggested that we think about the future of the Bradford Pear trees. Pruning has been keeping them in good shape but maybe we should think about replacements in the future. Her suggestion included taking down trees that are at severer risk of deterioration and replacing them with a newer, different type of tree. Perhaps a few could be done every year or so.

Mr. Sitko said he spoke with the deputy chief of police about plantings around police headquarters. The deputy chief said he would like input from the TBC as to what to plant there. Mr. Bonaminio and Ms. Dillman will meet with the police on Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Ms. Dillman and Ms. Archibald suggested meeting with public works personnel to discuss working on the parklet at Maple Avenue and Route 10.

Ms. Presnick-Lyon asked about the garden that was to be planted at the animal control facility. Ms. Vitarelli said that she worked at the site last year. She was with the women that volunteer there and they did some planting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

Town Beautification Committee (05/02/18)

5

The meeting ended at 8:55 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee