

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2018
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Archibald, Dillman, Cacace, Presnick-Lyon, Meyerjack, Fischer and Colacrai and Council Liaison Sylvia Nichols

ABSENT: O'Donnell

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called meeting 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. Cacace to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting with one correction as noted by Ms. Dillman. The correction being on page 2 under "Request for funds for Cheshire Library". The last sentence should read "up to \$125.00," not \$150.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

The committee welcomed new member Maria Colacrai.

BUSINESS

Signage – North Course Drive – Copper Hill, Freestanding Sign

Mr. Joe Maisto, member of the board of directors at Copper Hill, was present this morning to explain the type of sign to be erected and the reason it is needed. Mr. Maisto began by telling the committee that a new sign is being requested to replace a damaged sign that was hit by a car. It will be an entirely new design. Mr. Maisto said he felt the new sign would blend in well with the landscaping. The condo association also wanted to make the appearance of the entry to the complex more attractive. The new sign will be 30"x 60" and will be free standing. The height will be 30" and the width 5'. It will be made of foam and metal with wood posts and caps. The colors will be Pine Green and Metallic Gold and the sign will not be illuminated. Members discussed landscaping but felt that the surrounding trees would be enough. Perhaps some Hosta could be planted at the base of the pole.

Ms. Dillman made a motion to approve the sign. The motion was seconded by Ms. Archibald. All were in favor.

Meeting with Town Manager Sean Kimball

Mr. Sitko said he did reach out to Mr. Kimball to meet with the Town Beautification Committee, but Mr. Kimball explained that he has a standing appointment in the morning on the first Wednesday of the month and meeting with the TBC would not be possible.

Ms. Fischer commented on the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening for the remainder of the linear trail. She said how beautiful it was and thanked Mr. Sitko for informing the members about it. Mr. Sitko added that he was working on additional parking in the area.

There was also some discussion as to when to buy the Phlox for the library and when to plant it. Mr. Sitko said he would speak with Ms. Rutter.

Planters

Ms. Archibald said the planters were still being watered but felt that next week would be the final week to water.

Ms. Sylvia Nichols, town council representative, joined the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

Ms. Nichols began by saying that she realized that the TBC was concerned about the maintenance in the town especially around town hall. She said that the requests from

the TBC have not gone unheard and the council is well aware of it. Last year the town council tried to save the town money by combining departments and rearranging job descriptions. There are issues in various areas that must be addressed and lots of issues for public works with roads and maintenance. All the rain has hampered various projects. The town council is trying to get as much organization as quickly as possible by the end of this year so we will be in better shape by the spring of 2019.

Mr. Sitko added that he has also asked public works to take care of the lights at the parklet on the corner of Cook Hill Road and Route 10. Everyone realizes that there is a lot of change going on.

Mr. Sitko also mentioned that Mr. O'Donnell would no longer be attending TBC meetings as a liaison from parks and recreation. In view of this, Mr. Sitko said he wrote the town manager's office and asked that the town council be approached asking them to amend the TBC ordinance to delete the reference to a member of parks and recreation and replace that member with a public member.

Ms. Nichols responded by saying that the change has to go to the ordinance committee first and currently there are many items on their agenda. The change wouldn't get to town council until perhaps December. Ms. Nichols also stated that once the change got to the ordinance committee council members would request input from the TBC either in writing or a member to speak on behalf of the TBC to explain why the change is necessary.

Planting Projects for FY19

Mr. Sitko reminded everyone that the TBC had talked about a planting plan around town hall and now is the time to start planning for it. He suggested they put together a plan and associated cost. Ms. Archibald suggested, that before a plan is put together the area should be cleaned up so they can see what planting has to be done. Mr. Sitko agreed but said that a planting plan must be done and it is best to do it soon. Ms. Nichols asked if there was a specific person at public works that would work with the TBC to implement the plan. Possibly a designated person from TBC to work closely with the person from public works to see that things are done properly. Mr. Bonaminio said that since this was his field of expertise he would be happy to work with someone and guide them in the right direction. Mr. Sitko suggested that a list should be made of the things that need to be addressed. That way it is easier for public works to respond to something specific. Ms. Archibald suggested that a "to do" list should be made so things could be addressed on a weekly or monthly basis. She added that town hall should be the "jewel" of the town and reminded members that prospective homeowners, business people and such are coming into town hall daily and it should be

reflected as such. Mr. Bonaminio asked for people that would be interested in taking a walk around town hall to see what has to be done and make a list. The time and day agreed upon is Tuesday, October 9 at 9 a.m. The committee consists of Pat, Bill and Jessica.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio said the street trees are looking good considering the type of summer we had.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko reported that the letters will go out shortly with a reminder that the spots be cleaned up.

Mr. Sitko also requested that someone be chosen by the committee to fill a vacant position on the Sign Subcommittee. The current committee consists of Ms. Presnick-Lyon and Mr. Bonaminio. Ms. Archibald and Ms. Dillman said they would be willing to act as substitutes. The committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Mr. Sitko said that when the sign subcommittee is going to meet he will alert the entire committee to see who is available. Members felt this was a good idea.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sitko briefed the membership about what was going on in town.

- 1) The "Alexion" building was sold to Accel International.
- 2) The gas station on No. Brooksvale Rd. has been vacated. Another gas station might possibly go in.
- 3) Mr. Sitko noted that there is going to be a ground breaking ceremony for the medical office in the center of town on October 15 at 5 p.m.
- 4) There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 25 at 1 p.m. for River House Catering across from Richard Chevrolet.

Members also discussed several properties in town that were either blighted or in disrepair.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:58 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk

Town Beautification Committee