

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Archibald, Presnick-Lyon, Fischer, Colacrai, Cacace, and Dillman

ABSENT: Meyerjack

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting of the Town Beautification Committee to order at 8:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 10, 2019 meeting were approved with one clarification. Ms. Dillman mentioned that it could be beneficial to obtain multiple quotes whenever possible. A motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Ms. Archibald and seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko said he inquired about the property at 629 So. Main Street and found that the property is for sale and the grass has been cut.

BUSINESS

**Special Permit Application- 120 Commerce Court
Existing Office (Lot 62) and Contractor's Storage Yark (Lot 19) for Landscaping
Materials & Equipment to include new driveway.**

Mr. Sitko suggested that the item be tabled.

Discussion with Joan Pilarczyk of Artsplace

Ms. Joan Pilarczyk of Artsplace began by thanking the committee for all they do. She went on to say that she (Artsplace) has money that has been donated that can be used throughout town and she would like it to be used to purchase a tree with a plaque in honor of Cheshire's 325th anniversary. Ms. Pilarczyk also suggested asking various businesses in town to plant trees. She handed out information from the town of Fairfield on how it goes about raising funds for trees.

Mr. Sitko said that the 325th committee has discuss this type of thing. He went on to say that before anything is done a plan is needed. The TBC is interested in planting trees in various areas and made mention of the area from McDonald's south. Mr. Sitko then noted that a good place to plant trees was on Route 10 at Cheshire Park once the growth was removed. Another suggestion was made by Ms. Presnick-Lyon to plant a tree on Maple Ave. where the old Artsplace used to be. Mr. Sitko again reiterated that a plan and perhaps a subcommittee was needed. He also reminded them that no plantings using public funds could be done on private property. He felt that choosing 6 or 7 spots that might be worthy of trees would be the best way to start. Mr. Sitko said he would take the plan to public works to review.

TOWN HALL GROUNDS

Mr. Sitko said that public works has been doing work at the town hall. Ms. Archibald noted that the area near the main entrance had been overgrown with weeds and up

until recently looked terrible. The plants were not pruned properly. It has since been weeded. Mr. Sitko noted that there have been budget cutbacks and consolidation and suggested that the committee attend the council's budget meetings to voice their comments about possibly hiring someone or a company that knows landscaping and pruning.

Parks & Recreation Department Grounds

Members observed a drawing of the proposed plantings at the parks & recreation building. After looking over the drawing, the committee decided that the Spirea under the windows was a good suggestion because it was low and would not block the windows. The Crabapple tree also is to be removed and replace with a Red Maple. Other plantings include: Blue Juniper, Mini Barberry, and Dwarf Alberta Spruce. Mr. Bonaminio said he would look over the suggested plantings list and adjustments made by the TBC before handing it over to Mr. Gawlak.

Planters

Ms. Archibald noted that the planters look good but someone or something is removing plants from the pots.

Adopt-a-Spot Update

Ms. Dillman felt that some of the "spots" are not being maintained as well as they should be and wondered if it was time to either give it up or try new people to be maintainers of the "spots". She asked Mr. Sitko if he thought the Cheshire Herald would consider doing an article on the "spots" featuring the I-691 area and Mr. Dietrich. Mr. Sitko thought it was a good idea to contact the Cheshire Herald.

Awards

Although awards were not on the agenda for today, Ms. Dillman said that if awards are to be given, now is the time to have pictures taken. The suggested properties for this year are: Cheshire Lutheran Church, Vespucci's, VR Osteria, Cheshire Academy and Maplecroft Plaza.

325th Anniversary

Mr. Sitko noted that at the Fall Festival on the 14th of September. 500 325th tote bags will be handed out.

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He also noted that Ball & Socket's phase I remediation is under way.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 9:22 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee