

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting 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

A motion was made by Ms. Dillman to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Planters

Mr. Sitko began by informing the committee of an accident that happened Sunday morning on West Main Street that destroyed a lamp post, part of a wall and one of the planters. Mr. Sitko said the town would seek to recover damages from the insurance carrier of the vehicle. Ms. Archibald then said that she has purchased Chrysanthemums from Tower Farms and planted them in some of the planters on West Main Street. She said she got small and tightly closed plants so they might last longer. She planted three plants to a pot. Beginning next week, Abilities Without Boundaries will begin watering. Ms. Archibald and Mr. Sitko then discussed replacement for the planter that was damaged. Ms. Archibald also suggested purchasing one for the front of town hall. Ms. Fischer then asked if scarecrows could be placed along West Main Street during Halloween. She felt it was a good idea and would dress up the area. She also mentioned that it was a good fund raiser and had been done elsewhere. Ms. Fischer said she would get more information from the chamber before the next meeting. Members also discussed anchoring them from the wind.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said there really was no change in how the “spots” looked. Some looked better than others. Members wondered if it was time to recall the idea or maybe change some of the participants.

Members also discussed whether or not it was time to ask for outside help and hire a contractor to do some of the landscaping work. (i.e., around the town hall). Mr. Sitko said it was a good idea but to do so members of the committee must come before the town council during budget meetings in February or March to discuss the proposed funding.

Front of Town Hall

Mr. Sitko said he has spoken to public works to have the main entrance to town hall cleaned up.

The front of town hall was also discussed and Ms. Archibald said she would like to see the whole grassy area bricked over and the bench placed there. Ms. Dillman agreed but said she would like to see some of the plantings kept in front of the steps. Mr. Sitko said he would get a quote for the brickwork.

Community Pool

Ms. Colacrai began by telling the committee that some of the stumps have been removed but there are still a few more. Mr. Sitko said he spoke with John Gawlak, director of parks and recreation about the area and Mr. Gawlak said he would like to work with the committee on a planting plan. Mr. Bonaminio said he checked the area and he would like to see a nice tree and maybe some Arborvitae planted there.

Staff Report

Mr. Sitko said that Counterweight Brewing's plans are currently before the IWWC and should be ready to come before the Town Beautification Committee in October.

Mr. Sitko also commented on the property at the corner of Higgins Rd. and South Main Street. He said John Ricci has purchased the property and is currently in the process of tearing down the existing structure. His plans are to build 7 two-bedroom apartments but needs approval from the P&ZC first.

The 75,000 sq. ft. medical building that is being built on West Johnson Avenue is coming along. Its primary tenant will be Hartford Healthcare.

Ms. Dillman asked about the status of the gas station at the corner of South Main Street and North Brooksvale Road. She said it still has silk flowers and weeds in the front. Mr. Sitko said he would speak with the owner.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:42 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk