

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 7, 2020
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Archibald, Presnick-Lyon, Meyerjack, Fischer, Colacrai, and Jinks (Council Liaison)

ABSENT: Dillman

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 8:01 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. Presnick-Lyon to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Archibald. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Presnick-Lyon to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 Sign Subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyerjack. All were in favor.

Mr. Sitko commented on the new sign at the Fire Department and said it was being funded by the John G. Martin Foundation. Mr. Bonaminio said the area around the sign would need some landscaping and he would be happy to help.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Site Plan Review

a. Counterweight Brewing Company LLC – 7 Diana Court

Aron Schumacher of Milone & MacBroom explained the plans for the new brewery. He began by telling the committee that a new building will be erected adjacent to the one currently on the site. The buildings would be connected by a plaza with a glass enclosure. The new building will be 20,000 sq. ft. on 3.45 acres. There will also be an outdoor seating area between the buildings. The first floor will consist of a brewing area and the second floor will have a mezzanine with tasting area overlooking the brewing area. Mr. Schumacher went on to say that some of the plantings are restricted because of a gas easement. The plantings selected are: European Hornbeam, Green Lustre Japanese Holly, and American Elm. Lower type plantings include various types of grasses and Coneflower. Mr. Schumacher said that the application was before the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Presnick-Lyon to accept the plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Archibald. All were in favor.

Mr. Sitko stated that another brewery, on Commerce Court is in the works.

Planters

Mr. Sitko told the committee that the damaged planter on West Main Street was replaced. He also said he spoke with Abilities Without Boundaries watering. He said they water twice a week. Ms. Archibald said she goes out to water once a week, usually over the weekend. Ms. Archibald also stated that the chrysanthemums in the planters look good and are beginning to bloom.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that letters will be going out shortly to make sure the “spots” are cleaned up for the winter. Mr. Bonaminio noted that the “spot” at I-691 is empty now.

Front of Town Hall

Mr. Sitko said he has put in a work order with Public Works to have the area cleaned up but hasn't seen anything yet. Ms. Archibald noted that various areas are also in need of weeding and cleaning. She noted the West Main Street sidewalks as being one of the areas. Public Works has also been asked to help maintain various areas especially around town hall. Mr. Jinks said he would mention it to Mr. Noewatne, director of public works, to see what can be done.

Community Pool

Mr. Sitko said that several plantings have been removed but have not been replaced. Mr. Bonaminio said he has developed a plan. Mr. Sitko showed it to Mr. Gawlak, director of parks and recreation. Mr. Bonaminio said he is willing to work with Parks and Recreation on the plantings and trimmings. He also felt that planting shrubs is not a good idea. He suggested Coneflowers and perhaps large Hosta or Black Eyed Susan. Ms. Archibald suggested planting yellow or blue shrubs like at the Youth Center. She felt that they looked good and require little maintenance. Mr. Sitko suggested using funds for Cheshire Park first then concentrate on the pool. Ms. Fischer, Ms. Archibald, Mr. Bonaminio and Mr. Sitko will meet with Ms. Adams, the aquatics director, to decide on the plantings and maintenance at the pool.

Cheshire Park

Mr. Sitko said he sent a plan to Hickory and Brookside Landscaping for quotes for trees but hasn't heard back from them. Mr. Jinks asked what was happening at Cheshire Park and was told that the committee was planning to plant trees and clean up the area. Mr. Bonaminio added that the weeds need to be taken care of. Green Mountain Sugar Maples are planned for the area. Mr. Sitko suggested planting the trees and getting a separate quote to clean up the area.

Staff Report

Mr. Sitko said that a new business was coming to Watch Tower Factory. The new business will be a used book store which will help train individuals with special needs.

Ms. Archibald asked about cleaning up Gateway Park and was told that it was currently on hold.

Mr. Jinks added that he possibly has a person interested in becoming a member of the Town Beautification Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:59 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee