

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 4, 2012
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Voelker, Presnick-Lyon, Linder, O'Donnell,
Meyerjack and Archibald

ABSENT: Cacace, Dawson, Pelletier, Truluck and Ecke

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 36 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Linder and seconded by Mr. Meyerjack to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko said he received an e-mail from the chamber saying that the 2012 Expo will be held on April 14. A planning committee meeting will be held in the chamber office on January 12, 2012 at 4 p.m. Mr. Bonaminio said it would be nice to think of something special for the TBC to do at its booth at the Expo. He would like it to be attractive and perhaps have something similar to the video on trees that was at a past expo.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

Mr. Bonaminio noted that the barrels are beginning to show the effects of the warm weather this year and are starting to turn brown. Mr. Sitko said he has spoken to Bob Thatcher about cleaning them up.

West Main Street Streetscape

Mr. Sitko told the committee that workers for the culvert have been on site and said that they are trying to get as much done as possible before the weather gets bad. He also said that the streetscape project is on hold until spring.

Mr. Bonaminio noted that the new pavers around parklet on Main and Route 10 look really nice. Planting around the gas vaults will occur in the spring.

Mr. Bonaminio also said that the lights at the Cook Hill Road parklet keep failing and are not very bright. Mr. O'Donnell said he would mention it to Mr. Ceccolini, director of parks and recreation, and have him check into it. He thought that part of the problem could be the bulbs. They are fluorescent bulbs and take longer to brighten, especially in the cold.

TBC Awards

Mr. Sitko reminded the committee to keep looking for attractive areas. The next awards ceremony will be held in 2013. Mr. Bonaminio noted how nice the various nurseries looked in town. He said every time you pass any of them there is such a beautiful array of color.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio said he would put together a cost in the near future. He said it would be nice to see a good start for plantings in the spring.

Ordinance Review

The TBC Ordinance will be discussed briefly at the next town council meeting on Tuesday evening and referred to the ordinance review committee. Mr. Sitko said that it would be helpful for members to attend the meeting. He will notify them of the date.

Plan Reviews

**Special Permit – 490 West Main Street
Redevelopment of gas station & car wash to gas station**

Mr. Sitko announced that Boemmels Gas Station and Car Wash on West Main Street is to be leveled and in its place a filling station facility will be built and be operated under the auspices of Stop & Shop. It will consist of five filling stations. Members then viewed the landscaping plan which consisted of River Birch, Witch-hazel, Bald Cypress, Juniper and Dark American Arborvitae. The River Birch will be planted along the perimeter with most of the plantings to the rear. There will also be a scattering of Arborvitae and other shrubs in the front. After viewing the plan, the committee found it to be acceptable, but suggested that flowering trees be planted in the southeast and southwest corners. A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell that the plan be accepted with the recommendation of two flowering trees in front. All were in favor.

Mr. Meyerjack then asked about traffic piling up should the gas station be overcrowded. Members felt that no matter what was done if traffic was particularly heavy it would pile up.

Sign Reviews

There were no sign reviews.

Projects for 2012

Mr. Bonaminio began by asking if anything could be done with the wall on South Main Street across from the 7-11 store. He said it was currently overgrown with vines and weeds and thought maybe the TBC, the town or the state could do some clean-up with it. Mr. Sitko felt that because the road is a state road he didn't think the town would approve of anything being done.

Ms. Voelker then asked if anything could be done about the blighted properties in town. She cited some on Route 10, one being a sign at the north end that is in total disrepair and another property at the corner of Route 10 and Higgins Road. The Chapman property across from Alderson Funeral Home was also noted as an unsightly property. Mr. Sitko then told the committee that he speaks with the owner of the Higgins Road property from time to time and would remind him that the property needs tending to. He also said he would call the real estate people about the sign near the Route 691 intersection and have that sign taken care of as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Zoning

No report

Economic Development

No report

Town Council

Mr. Sitko said that the town manager and departments are currently working on the budget for next year.

Parks & Recreation

No Report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Linder. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:35 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee