

**CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012 AT 7:30 A.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 207 / 209**

Committee Members Present:

Chairman William Bonaminio, Pat Archibald, Jeremy Linder, William Meyerjack, Jane Presnick-Lyon and Mike O'Donnell - Park & Recreation Commission Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Pauline Cacace, Carol Truluck, Lynn Voelker, S. Woody Dawson - Planning Zoning Commission Representative, Sylvia Nichols - Town Council Representative and David Pelletier - Economic Development Commission Representative

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Nancy Levesque of NET Engineering, LLC, representing PZ Realty IV, LLC (departed at 7:45 a.m.)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The roll was called.

**III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

It was determined that a quorum was not present for this meeting.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 1, 2012 Regular Meeting

A vote on the February 1, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes was tabled because there was not a quorum for this meeting.

**VI. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to the Town Beautification Committee.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Barrels

Mr. Sitko stated that he would be working with Bob Thatcher from the Boy Scouts for planting ideas for the Town barrels. Ms. Archibald and Chairman Bonaminio offered to help coordinate the barrel plantings.

2. West Main Street Commercial Streetscape Project

Mr. Sitko stated that there is still some work to be done on the culvert but hopefully by late Spring or early Summer the State will finish their work and the utilities will be able to be brought up past the culvert on West Main Street. Stop and Shop has been approved for a gas station, to replace Bummels Car Wash, and will be matching the sidewalk and granite curbing with the other streetscape work in the area. Clover Construction, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase contractor for the streetscape project would like to do some more work in the area soon. Once the State finishes their work in the area, Clover can finish the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase.

3. TBC Awards

If anyone has nominations for the Town Beautification Committee Awards, please notify Mr. Sitko. Residential neighborhoods and commercial property can be nominated for an award. The next round of Town Beautification Committee awards will be given out in 2013.

4. Street Trees

Chairman Bonaminio is hopeful that there will be more funds available in next year's Operating Budget to do some more tree plantings in the Fall, to make more of an impact. He noted that the area north of Highland Bowl on Route 10 is very bare. It was noted that additional plantings can not be done until the Fall because of the season and to see what funds are available.

## 5. Ordinance

Mr. Sitko reported that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. by the Town Council regarding the Town Beautification Committee's request regarding its membership size. Mr. O'Donnell stated the he would attend the Town Council meeting and Ms. Archibald stated she would try to make the Public Hearing.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Archibald talked about the plantings in the front of the Cheshire Public Library and along the steep bank to the right of the entrance. She suggested planting 2 small ornamental trees at the beginning of the slope, which would be seen from the lower level windows. Chairman Bonaminio replied that he thought they would acclimate to the slope and suggested stewartia or maybe star magnolia or hawthorne, without spikes. Ms. Archibald stated that the Garden Club she belongs to will be doing the planting.

Chairman Bonaminio expressed his hopes that something could be done with the wall across from the 7-11 store on South Main Street. It was noted that it is State Department of Transportation responsibility.

Mr. Sitko informed the Committee that Milone & MacBroom was selected to do the design work for the Linear Trail extension north from West Main Street. The State Department of Transportation will be doing the survey work for the Trail.

### 1. Plan Reviews

#### A. Site Plan – PZ Realty IV, LLC – 839 West Main Street Restaurant / Ice Cream Parlor

Nancy Levesque of NET Engineering, LLC was present on behalf of PZ Realty IV, LLC to review the plans for 839 West Main Street. Ms. Levesque stated the the plans call for the re-development of the Zentek farm stand and Scooples ice cream parlor on the property. The two existing buildings will be connected; Pauly Z burgers will be sold from from a window, where the farm stand currently is, and the ice cream parlor will be in the same location. There will be a roof added to connect the two buildings. To the rear of the building will be a screened in pavillion for customers to eat in. Currently, this is planned as a seaonal business and will not be open year round. Parking will remain in the front of the property and additional parking will be added to the rear of the property. It was noted that the golf driving range next door to this property is a different owner. Ms. Levesque noted that Mr. Zentek has 1 acre of land at 839 West Main Street which includes the ice cream parlor, farm stand and house on the property.

Mr. Sitko asked about the landscaping plans for the property. Ms. Levesque noted that most of the front of the property is paved and currently there are plantings under

the ice cream parlor windows. A rain water garden will be added to the rear, near the screened in pavillion. Mr. Sitko commented that the Zenteks have done a nice job with their farm stand on Higgins Road and think they will do a nice job on this project, too. Chairman Bonaminio stated that he agreed and saying that there really isn't much room for plantings along the front of the property except for some foundation plantings and maybe some seasonal flowers potted in the front.

It was noted that the details have not been finalized for the business signs and they will be presented under a separate sign application to the Town Beautification Committee.

Ms. Levesque noted that the existing driveway between the ice cream parlor and the house on the property will be widened toward the back of the property where the new parking spaces will be located. The dumpster for the property will be located to the back of the new parking area. Ms. Levesque noted that 2 driving range spots have been removed along with some telephone poles near the property line and some of the golf driving range netting was re-located. A greenhouse on the property at 839 West Main Street is being removed from the property that was located behind the buildings. There will be no seating for the businesses in the front of the property.

Chairman Bonaminio suggested that seasonal plantings could be done in the front of the property, around the signs at the roadway.

Ms. Presnick-Lyon asked if the burgers would be ordered outside? Ms. Levesque replied yes, it is going to be counter service and then the customers could go around back to the screened in area to eat. She was not sure if the ice cream parlor would be a year round business, when asked.

The Town Beautification Committee members present agreed that the plans submitted by PZ Realty IV LLC for 839 West Main Street were acceptable as presented.

## 2. Expo – April 14, 2012

Chairman Bonaminio stated that he would like to raffle off a large cactus he has at the Expo. Commissioners talked about having wildflower seeds, vegetable plants and tree seedlings at the expo for give-aways as well as handouts and maybe pencils. It was also suggested that the picture disc of local tree pictures be playing on a laptop for visitors to view. A sign up sheet was passed around to members for the Home & Business Expo booth.

## 3. Projects for 2012

Mr. Sitko suggested to the Town Beautification Committee that the Trees to be Appreciated program and tree plantings at the schools were projects for the Committee to work on this year. In addition, the Adopt-a-Spot locations will be finalized by the Committee over the next month or two.

Chairman Bonaminio informed the Committee that he met with Paul, with the Park and Recreation Department, to discuss a planting plan for the parklet on the corner of Route 10 and Main Street. He noted that the contractor had done a nice job on the new sidewalks around the parklet. Some of the proposed new plantings that will go around the Yankee Gas vaults will be boxwoods, green luste holly and day lillies. Mr. O'Donnell suggested that the bushes not be planted too close to the sidewalks due to concerns about branches being broken during snow removal. Committee members are looking forward to seeing the plantings done this Spring.

#### 4. Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given at this meeting.

#### 5. Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell from the Parks & Recreation Commission reported that a few of the lights in the parklet on the corner of Cook Hill Road are broken, due to vandalism, and will need to be replaced.

Mr. Sitko reported that the Town Manager is working to finalize his suggested Operating Budget by the end of the week. He expects the \$13,000 budget for the Town Beautification Committee to remain intact.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Bonaminio adjourned the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Town Beautification Committee at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Substitute Recording Secretary