

MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 4, 2012
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207

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

ABSENT: Truluck

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 37 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 1, 2012 meeting were approved as presented. A motion to accept was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. Due to the lack of quorum, the meeting notes of March 7, 2012 were accepted with two corrections. On page 3 under new business, it states that Ms. Archibald stated that the garden club she belongs to will be doing the planting. Ms. Archibald said that the garden club would not necessarily be doing the plantings. She was only getting ideas to see what has to be done. The idea was to do something that would not mean more work for Public Works. Ms. Cacace also noted a typo error under plan reviews. On the fifth line there was a double word "from". A motion to accept with corrections was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

Ms. Archibald noted that she and Mr. Sitko and Mr. Bob Thatcher met with Mr. Jon Manke of Tower Farms recently to discuss the planting of the barrels. They agreed that they would start with pansies and as the weather gets too warm for pansies they will switch over to something more conducive to the summer months. Something more on the order of what was done last year. Members also discussed the possibility of skipping chrysanthemums altogether if the summer plantings hold out and go directly to greens for the holidays.

West Main Street Project

Mr. Sitko began by telling the committee that a meeting with Mastrobattisto, contractor for the culvert, was held recently and the finish date for the streetscape and island of refuge project is scheduled for May 15. As soon as Mastrobattisto is finished, the town will come in and finish what is left and the total completion date is scheduled for the fall of 2012.

Ms. Archibald then asked if the upper portion of West Main was something that would be done in the future. Mr. Sitko said that the town would like to see the sidewalks on the north side done, provided funding is available.

TBC Awards

Mr. Sitko asked the committee to keep looking for prospective award winners. Mr. O'Donnell asked what the categories were for an award and Mr. Sitko listed them for him. The categories are area, business, condominium, historical, multi-seasonal, public and special awards.

Street Trees

Mr. Sitko said that the committee has talked about planting trees for some time now and he would like to see it become a project for 2012. Mr. Bonaminio asked if it was something that had to go out to bid and was told it did not, but it would be wise to shop around for some prices. Ms. Archibald asked where the target areas for plantings were and was told that it was along Route 10. Mr. Bonaminio then asked if there was something that perhaps the garden club could help with a donation toward the trees. It was estimated that a 12 foot 2-2 ½ inch caliper shade tree would cost approximately \$600. Some suggested trees were Maple, Ash and Honey Locust. Ms. Archibald asked if anyone had ever thought of putting evergreens in along Route 10. Mr. Bonaminio said he did and also would like to add cherry trees. Mr. Sitko also said that grants have been available in the past, but didn't know what was available at this time. The area in front of the bowling alley was recommended as a good place to plant either trees or something smaller. Members felt that it would add to the attractiveness of the building.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Reviews

Luca Ristorante – 1721 Highland Avenue

Mr. Sitko began by introducing Mr. Dino Ricciardone who is going to run Luca Restaurant, formerly Brix, located at 1721 Highland Avenue. Mr. Ricciardone was before the committee this morning to receive approval for a sign at his place of business. The sign is a free standing 45.62 sq. ft. sign and will be beige with burgundy lettering. The applicant said that only the lettering on the sign would be illuminated. Comments from the committee were that the sign was very appropriate and that the colors blended well. The only other suggestions were that there be some plantings, perhaps evergreens and Daylilies, below the sign. Mr. Ricciardone said he liked this suggestion.

Expo

Mr. Bonaminio said he would like to start bringing things in as early as possible on Friday. He said he would be there early on Saturday, but Friday was hard because he has a previous commitment. Mr. Archibald said she would be at the high school by 4 and would be bringing the seedlings from Cheshire Nursery that would be given away. Mr. Linder said he would pick up the arbor sometime during the week and deliver it on Saturday in plenty of time. Mr. Bonaminio also said he has a very large cactus that will be used for a raffle on Saturday. Mr. Sitko said raffle tickets could be made. Flowers for the tables also had to be picked up. Mr. Sitko said that Eric Nelson would be available on Saturday to help with the break down.

Arbor Day

Trees to be Appreciated

Members were asked to keep looking for trees in town that are to be appreciated. Mr. Bonaminio noted that there are some Bald Cypress in town for members to look at.

Plantings at elementary schools

Mr. Sitko said that letters will be sent to all elementary schools asking them if they are interested in participating in the Arbor Day program. Pencils will be given to the students and a tree will be planted at the school.

Adopt-a-Spot

Committee members for the Adopt-a-Spot program are: Ms. Cacace, Mr. Bonaminio and Ms. Archibald. The committee will meet this morning to discuss the program and who will be decorating what spot in town.

Projects for 2012

The biggest project for 2012 is the planting of trees along Route 10 in the north section of town. The old St. Bridget cemetery on Highland Avenue also came under discussion and the committee felt that Brookside Landscaping should be contacted. Mr. Bonaminio said he would call today. Members felt that it is a high visibility area and should be taken care of.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation

No report

Town Council

Currently working on the budget

Economic Development

No report

Planning & Zoning

No report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Linder.

The meeting ended at 8:33 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee