

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2012
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Meyerjack and Archibald

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 32 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed in memory of Frank Papandrea, former member of the TBC, who passed away this week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting were approved with one correction. The correction being on page 2 under TBC Awards the sentence that reads "Lucinda's on West Main Street" should read "Lucinda's on Highland Avenue". The motion to approve as amended was made by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

The committee felt that the barrels were looking good with the current plantings. Ms. Dillman, however, said that the plan is to plant greens as the holidays get closer and possibly add white branches for additional color.

The committee also touched on the blight that has affected the Impatiens planted around town hall this year. The waiting period is three years before Impatiens can be planted again. They also said that Angel Wing Begonias would be the best plantings right now and they are hardy in sun or shade.

West Main Street Commercial Streetscape Project

Mr. Sitko announced that the project is pretty well wrapped up and he's been working with the contractor to complete it. He said the planters have been ordered, but have not been delivered yet. He thinks that most likely five more will be ordered to complete the landscape. Mr. Bonaminio added that the planters will be a nice addition to the area. Mr. Sitko told the committee that the planters for the island will be from a different budget. He also said that because of the personnel situation in public works, he wrote a grant proposal for \$500,000 for the sidewalks and retaining walls from Grove to Waverly Streets.

TBC Awards

The committee discussed several nominations for TBC Awards. Several possibilities were eliminated and Norton Brosther's, Dunkin Donuts (across from Cornwall), Cheshire Dental on South Main and The Pink Petunia were added to the list. A motion was made by Mr. Linder and seconded by Ms. Dillman to accept the list for TBC awards for 2012. The awards ceremony will be held in early 2013.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio began by mentioning the area in front of the bowling alley on Highland Avenue. He recommended Kousa Dogwoods and Mr. Sitko said he has spoken to Marsha Fisco, the owner of the property. Ms. Fisco said that she would like to see a plan before she OK's the plantings. Mr. Bonaminio also suggested plantings in front of Alderson Funeral Home. Mr. Sitko said that the budget would have to be checked for available money. At this time, he thought there was \$3000 available for plantings.

Adopt-a-Spot

Of all the "spots" that were planted this year, three stood out as the most attractive. The three best were: Dietrich Gardens (Rt. 691 exit ramp), Congregation Kol Ami (South End Firehouse) and Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire (Yellow House on South Main). Photos of the "spots"

were passed around by committee. The winning “spot” for 2012 was the Yellow House on South Main Street. Mr. Sitko said he would contact the Cheshire Herald for an article and picture.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Reviews

Jenny K Cleaners – 187 Highland Avenue (Maplecroft Plaza)

Mr. Al Marques, was the spokesman for Jenny K Cleaners. Mr. Sitko began by telling the committee that Mr. Marques is the owner of Jenny K Cleaners. Jenny K is currently next to The Source clothing store that recently vacated. Jenny K is moving next door because more space is needed. The location that Jenny K will vacate is approximately 1000 sq. ft. and will be occupied by a Chinese takeout store. Mr. Sitko also noted that a Trailblazer store will locate in the now vacant former Rite Aid Pharmacy store in the south part of the plaza. He went on to say that the sign subcommittee did look at a sign application that was submitted for Trailblazer (dba Denali) and because of the way the front of the store is built, the 5% for a sign wasn't big enough and they wanted to include the peaked area. Therefore, they went to the Zoning Board of Appeals and were granted permission for a larger sign because they are an anchor store. Mr. Marques is also looking for a larger sign in the same way to include the peak in the dimensions. The Zoning Enforcement Officer doesn't have a problem with it because of what the Zoning Board of Appeals decided about Trailblazer. Ms. Voelker said that the sign subcommittee agreed with the ZBA because aesthetically it does look better and would balance the sign Marshall's has on the other side of the same building. A motion was made by Ms. Cacace that the proposal for the Jenny K cleaners sign be accepted. It was seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

Plan Reviews

There were no plan reviews

Liaison Reports

There was no report.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Dillman asked about the care of the gazebo at Bartlem Park. She felt that the plantings were not cared for and asked who would be in charge. She was told that the Parks and Recreation Department was in charge. The committee said that someone would check it out and make some recommendations to perhaps have the area redone with low maintenance plantings.

There was also some discussion about the area around the old St. Bridget Cemetery on Highland Avenue. Members discussed adding more plantings and also possibly having the wall rebuilt at the house next door. Nothing was definite.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:44 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee