

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 3, 2013
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Cacace

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 6, 2013 meeting were approved as presented. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Mr. Linder. There was one suggestion. The extra word "and" on the first page under members present should be omitted. All were in favor.

The minutes of the March 20, 2013 Sign Subcommittee meeting were approved as submitted. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Linder and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Home, Garden & Business Expo – April 13, 2013

The Home, Garden & Business Expo will once again be held at Cheshire High School on April 13. Mr. Bonaminio mentioned that the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is happy to have the Town Beautification Committee on board again. The committee is planning to have a planting station for children where patio tomato plants and marigolds can be planted. Packets of Sunflower seeds will be obtained by Mr. Bonaminio and distributed to anyone wishing to plant them. Ms. Dillman will have displays consisting of TBC Award winners and Adopt-a-Spot pictures. She will also show photos inside local greenhouses depicting Cheshire as the Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut. For anyone wishing to help, set up will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Barrels

Members walked the West Main Streetscape area to determine if there is better placement of the barrels for safety. Ms. Archibald also wrote a letter to the Board of Directors of the Congregational Church to see if the barrels on South Main Street in front of the church could be moved to a better position to enhance visibility. She is currently awaiting an answer.

West Main Street Commercial Streetscape Project

Mr. Sitko began by telling the committee that the project is effectively finished. He said that he is still waiting for the State of Connecticut to approve the location of identification signs. Hopefully, it will be done by spring. Mr. Sitko said he is also waiting for word about the approval of a grant to complete the sidewalks from Grove Street to Maple Avenue.

TBC Awards

Members attended the March 13th meeting of Boy Scout Troop 90 to present certificates to the troop for the care and watering of the barrels during the year. The boys were delighted with their awards.

Mr. Bonaminio said that the people that were presented with awards were very appreciative. Mr. Sitko asked members to keep their eyes open for future nominees. Ms. Dillman asked that suggestions be made sooner so pictures could be taken when the flowers are in bloom.

Street Trees

The committee hopes to have 3 or 4 trees planted this spring. Perhaps more will be planted in the future.

The tree subcommittee includes: Mr. Bonaminio, Ms. Archibald, Ms. Cacace and Mr. Linider.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that letters have been sent to various organizations and businesses about the “spots” for the upcoming year. Cheshire Nursery will be caring for Bartlem Park and Cheshire High School Key Club and Kiwanis Club will do the Country Club Road/Route 10 site. Others will maintain the same areas that they had last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Plan Reviews

Special Permit – Finch Avenue – Replace existing chapel with 6,048 sf. Chapel and associated parking and improvements.

Mr. Biff Schechinger, Landscape Architect for the applicant, was available this morning to speak to the committee and show renderings of the proposed plan. Mr. Schechinger began by explaining to the committee that the area is very well landscaped. He said that the proposal is for an addition of 5,000 sf. and more parking spaces. Due to fire rules, the present roads also need to be widened. By widening the road and using structural grass for a fire lane, should it be necessary, fire trucks would be able to circle the area instead of backing up or turning around. Mr. Schechinger also stated that the berm facing Suffield Court would be increased and augmented by natural vegetation and low evergreens. Some of the suggested plantings included Juniper and Persian Perodium. He went on to explain that right now there is no definite plan for lighting, but he has a lighting layout and no fixtures. The work will start as soon as is possible. A comment was made about the height of the trees on the berm. The TBC agreed that it would like to see the final planting, as opposed to an intended plan, when it is developed.

Special Permit – 140 Cook Hill Road – Renovation and expansion of existing dining room.

Mr. Sitko showed the committee the proposed plan for Elim Park’s expansion. He said that the facility needs more casual dining space and less formal, therefore an expansion to the dining room is necessary. Most of the renovating will be done internally with some work to the existing deck. The landscape plan includes some low bush blueberry for groundcover, birch trees and various shrubs. The committee found the plan to be acceptable.

Gateway Parklet

Mr. Sitko said that the CT. DOT is planning to change the turning radius of the Maple Ave. /Route 10 intersection. He didn't have further details at this time, but said he would like to see the plans and how they would affect the Gateway Parklet when they are available.

Arbor Day Week – Activities

Mr. Sitko said that Arbor Day is April 26 and letters will be sent to the schools asking them if they would like to participate in the plantings. He would also like the committee to be aware of various notable trees throughout town.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell, of Parks and Recreation, said there was nothing at this time. The pool will be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:55 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee