

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2013
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Meyerjack

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 34 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. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cacace. A motion was also made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2013 Sign Subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor of both motions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

Members discussed the condition of the barrels. The barrels at Town Hall looked rather shabby. Members felt that the amount of water they were receiving for the conditions was not sufficient. Ms. Archibald said that she had checked the barrels on West Main Street and where they were watered the plants look well, but others in the area that did not get enough water were poor. There was some discussion whether the town should continue using the Boy Scouts for plant care in the future. Mr. Sitko suggested that we get through this year then think about a change if necessary. Several suggestions were made. Mr. Bonaminio suggested that a letter be sent to the scouts explaining what our expectations are and that we are not pleased with current performance. Two other suggestions were to try another troop or approach the local businesses and ask them to water the barrels that are in front of their business. Much discussion ensued concerning moving the barrels, where to move them and how to care for them in the future.

TBC Awards

Ms. Dillman and Ms. Archibald rode around town looking for properties that could qualify for an award. The properties that they found to be acceptable were: Drazen Orchards, Guardian Angels, Red Carpet Inn, Dodd Middle School, Oasis Church and Ultimate Auto Body. At the next awards ceremony these properties will be honored plus the five Adopt-a-Spot participants. All five "spots" were found to be very appealing.

The committee also discussed various areas of town that were in need of help. Two of these properties were Rite Aid Pharmacy and the Stop & Shop gas station on West Main Street. Mr. Sitko said he would make a phone call to see what could be done.

Street Trees

The committee had planned on planting trees at Alderson Funeral Home and the bowling alley on Highland Avenue, but was reconsidering because of the possibility of someone questioning the idea of the town planting on private properties. Mr. Sitko thought that the answer might be to have it in writing in the form of an agreement that neither the town nor the property owner would hold each other liable. He will discuss with the town attorney and return with an answer at another meeting.

Adopt-a-Spot

A letter will be sent to all those that participated in the Adopt-a-Spot program thanking them and telling them that they will be honored in the January or February. The awards program will include the Adopt-a-Spot sponsors plus the property owners recognized by the TBC.

Center Parklet

Mr. Sitko said he will work to obtain funding for enhancing the parklet from Yankee Gas.

NEW BUSINESS

Plan Reviews

Core Development – 589 South Main Street – 13 Unit Planned Residential Infill Development

Mr. Sitko began by explaining to the committee that the development will be south of Cheshire High School and will be on 1 ¼ acres of land. He said this is a new regulation permitting “increased density”. He also showed an architectural rendering of the proposed plan. It will be a townhouse type development. Beautification members viewed the proposed landscaping plan and were happy with what was proposed. The plan showed Red Maple, Sweet Gum, Zelkovas, Plum, Magnolia, Inkberry and Winterberry. The committee requested that the western boundary of the property be adequately screened with the Rhododendron being the taller variety.

Sign Reviews

15 Burton Drive – Doggie Daycare of Cheshire, LLC – Wall and Freestanding signs

Mr. Sitko explained to the committee that Doggie Daycare is the second building on the left and is asking for a wall sign and a free standing sign. He said the signs do meet regulations. The colors will be black, white, blue and brown. The sign is appropriate. A suggestion was that landscaping be added at the base of the free standing sign. A motion was made by Mr. O’Donnell to accept the Doggie Daycare sign with recommendation that there be plantings under the free standing sign. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cacace. All were in favor.

96 Elm Street – Dragonfly Kids Consignment Boutique – Wall Sign

Mr. Sitko explained to the committee that he spoke with the owner of the consignment shop and felt that she was very enthusiastic about opening the store. The actual sign will be on the side of the building. Members felt that it was an attractive sign and did meet the requirements. A motion was made by Mr. O’Donnell to accept the proposed sign. It was seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

1154 Meriden- Waterbury Road – Rugged Fitness – Wall Sign

Rugged Fitness will be located on Meriden-Waterbury Road near the liquor store. Members felt the sign was appropriate and a motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the proposed sign. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

St. Bridget Cemetery

Members discussed the plantings at the old St. Bridget Cemetery on Highland Avenue. They felt that many of the Daylilies were too overgrown and should be divided and remulched. Mr. Sitko and Mr. Bonaminio said they would get a quote from Brookside Gardens to do the work. Mr. O'Donnell thought it would be a good idea to add Black Eyed Susans. The Black Eyed Susans were shorter and would fill in well. Another suggestion by Ms. Presnick-Lyon was to plant groups of daffodils to add color early in the spring. Mr. Bonaminio said he would check into it.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell reported that the flowers at the parklet have been removed and are being stored.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 9:10.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee