

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 2013
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Cacace, Presnick-Lyon, Archibald, Voelker, Vitarelli, Meyerjack and Dillman

ABSENT: O'Donnell

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 35 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 Ms. Dillman to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cacace. The correction is under Core Development Planned Development. The minutes should read: At this time no vote was taken on a landscaping plan for Core Development. Also, under "Adopt-a-Spot" the word "the" should be omitted preceding the word January. The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

E-mail re: panic buttons

Mr. Sitko reviewed a memo that was sent to all town hall departments concerning the panic buttons that have been installed throughout town buildings. Mr. Sitko also informed the committee where that panic button in room 207 is.

Letter from Town Manager Milone re: West Main Street Planters

Mr. Sitko brought to the attention of the committee the letters that were sent to Ms. Archibald, Ms. Dillman and Ms. Voelker by Town Manager Michael Milone thanking them for the time and effort they have devoted to the planting and maintenance of the decorative planters along the upgraded West Main Street area. He went on to say how much he appreciated their hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

Mr. Bonaminio began by asking the committee if bows were needed for the barrels this year and how many would be needed. Ms. Archibald said that first the barrels needed to be discussed. Mr. Sitko began by saying that the barrels, specifically the 26 barrels in the center of town and at the police station had been discussed and at this time turned the subject over to the committee. Ms. Archibald noted that the rings have been lying on the ground and various sections of the barrels have been coming apart and starting to show their age. The recommendation is that the barrels be picked up this fall by Public Works and not even kept for the holidays because if it snows they will only get worse. At this time the planters at the entrance to town hall and the one in front of town hall will be kept and filled the same as the ones on West Main Street. This will give time for the areas to be cleaned up and then reassessed for the spring season. A suggestion was to perhaps get new planters similar to those that are on the steps of the library because they are movable and very sturdy. Different sizes would also be available. Mr. Sitko and Ms. Dillman said they spoke with people associated with the Cheshire Food Pantry and that the pantry is interested in obtaining some of them for planting herbs or a container vegetable garden. In view of the change, Ms. Dillman suggested that perhaps this would be a good opportunity to assess our ties with the Boys Scouts that have not been doing as good a job as the committee would like. A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Ms. Voelker, "to have Public Works remove all the barrels as soon as they can with usable barrels being donated to the food pantry." All were in favor. Ms. Archibald also suggested that after the holidays when the ribbons are removed, pansies should be incorporated in with the greens that are still in good condition therefore leaving the barrels with color until spring planting time.

TBC Awards

A memo was distributed by Mr. Sitko listing the locations that were selected by the TBC to receive an award at the next ceremony on February 5, 2014. The locations are: Drazen Orchards, Guardian Angels, Red Carpet Inn, Dodd Middle School, Oasis Church and Ultimate Auto Body. The five Adopt-a-Spot participants will also be honored.

Street Trees

Members discussed the planting of trees throughout various areas of town. Mr. Sitko said he is uncomfortable with planting trees on private property with town funds. Ms. Dillman then asked if people could be held accountable for not following through with their landscaping after coming before the committee with a landscaping plan. Mr. Sitko said most follow through, but some don't. He also said that when certificate of occupancies are approved, landscaping is not at times the most pressing priority. Mr. Bonaminio said that many street trees are needed along Route 10. There was some discussion about where to plant the trees and what type to use. Ms. Dillman asked if there was a way to enforce the plantings. She suggested that perhaps a letter could be sent to those that haven't cooperated. Ms. Vitarelli said that it would heighten awareness of what the TBC expects. Mr. Sitko said he would make the Zoning Enforcement Officer aware of the plantings when doing a CO.

Adopt-a-Spot

Pictures of the Adopt-a-Spots that appeared in the Cheshire Citizen were shown to the committee. Everyone agreed that a nice job was done this year.

Route 10 Retaining Wall

Mr. Sitko said that Town Manager Michael Milone reached out to the Connecticut DOT concerning the wall and they seemed to listen to what he had to say about the condition of the wall. The DOT checked the wall and determined that it is structurally sound. One of their suggestions was to move Route 10 to allow sidewalks to be constructed but the amount of money to do so was prohibitive. The DOT also has a retaining wall rehabilitation program, but this is only used for walls that are at risk. The third suggestion is a wall maintenance program that is available. Mr. Sitko said he would look into this program and see if it is available for the wall on South Main Street. He will let the committee know when he has something to report.

Center Parklet – Route 10/68/70

Mr. Sitko announced to the committee that work is being done on the vaults and in addition to adding one more vault, they are being brought down to ground level. The town has also asked for compensation from Yankee Gas for future maintenance. This area will also be considered for planters.

St. Bridget Cemetery – Highland Avenue

Mr. Bonaminio said he spoke with the landscaper and a quote was submitted to divide the Black Eye Susans that are currently there, to add mulch and add more Black Eye Susan and some

Coneflower. The amount presented was \$2,350. Ms. Presnick-Lyon suggested that other landscapers be contacted for other quotes. Ms. Dillman asked if we could specify the type of plants as to get a good healthy variety.

Former Getty Station – West Main and Maple Avenue

Mr. Bonaminio began by saying that the Roses needed to be cut back and Mr. Sitko noted that several complaints were made about this property. He went on to say that another operator may come there, but wasn't sure just when. He said the new operator wants to plant his own way Provisions may also be made to house a pizza takeout on the premises. A special permit will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Voelker to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:55 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee