

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 4, 2013
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Dillman and Meyerjack

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

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2013 meeting with one correction. The correction being that under "Barrels" the last line should read "in the spring pansies will be planted". The motion was seconded by Ms. Voelker. The minutes were approved unanimously.

A motion was also made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2013 sign subcommittee meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Voelker. The minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2014 MEETING DATES

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the TBC meeting dates for the year 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Donnell to accept the meeting dates for the sign subcommittee for the year 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cacace. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Barrels

It was noted that the "barrels" would now be referred to as planters. Mr. Bonaminio noted that the barrels in front of town hall have been removed. Mr. Sitko noted the committee members (Archibald, Dillman & Voelker) who were instrumental in decorating the planters in the center of town and along West Main Street.

TBC Awards

Mr. Sitko announced that the awards will be given at the February 5, 2014 TBC meeting and asked members to plan to attend.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio noted that he hasn't had a chance to price the new trees yet. Mr. Sitko said that the Bradford Pear trees will be trimmed. There was some skepticism about the town planting trees on private property. A suggestion was made by Ms. Presnick-Lyon to publicize that private property owners that were interested in obtaining trees at a discount contact the TBC. This offer would only pertain to properties on Route 10. Mr. O'Donnell suggested that of the requests received, only the first five or so would be used. The trees suggested would be disease resistant, low maintenance and strong. The property owner would be responsible for the purchase, watering and care of the trees. Ms. Cacace suggested the property owners that planted the trees be recognized on Arbor Day.

Adopt-a-Spot

The Adopt-a-Spot participants will be recognized at the February 5, 2014 meeting. Soon after letters will go out for next season.

Route 10 – Retaining Wall

Mr. Sitko began by informing the committee that he had met with the DOT and the director of public works and town engineer to review the condition of the wall. After looking it over, it was determined that fixing the wall could be an expensive proposition. He also said that the DOT has a rehab program for walls. This program is for walls that are badly in need of repair and the wall in Cheshire is not that bad. Patching might not be a good idea. Mr. Sitko said that the guardrail is unsightly and there is an overgrowth of sumac and weeds. Mr. Sitko said the DOT would get back to him with costs and what could possibly be done.

Center Parklet - Routes 10/68/70

Mr. Sitko mentioned to Mr. O'Donnell that when he went by he noticed that the lights were out. Mr. O'Donnell said he would check with Mr. Ceccolini, director of parks and recreation. Mr. Sitko also noted that Yankee Gas is completing the work and installing a fourth vault. Yankee Gas will also pay for three planters and pay the town \$10,000 in compensation.

St. Bridget Cemetery

Mr. Bonaminio noted that nothing has been done at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Site Plan Review for 225 Black Road LLC

Mr. Michael Doherty of Milone & MacBroom appeared before the committee this morning to show plans for the proposed building that will eventually house a contractor's warehouse and storage building. The building will be located on Black's Road near Route 10. To date, there is no client for the building but the owner is getting approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Doherty pointed out that there is a significant elevation change. The first phase is to excavate and establish the slope then it will be seeded. At this time there is no landscaping plan, but the owner is open to any TBC suggestions. Mr. Sitko showed the committee member a proposed plan of the future building. It will house an office and store equipment. Possibly some screening will be added later together with ground plantings. The size of the proposed building is approximately 19,500 sq. ft. in an I-2 Zone. Ms. Presnick-Lyon suggested that a buffer be added between the proposed building and the adjoining property.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell reported that at the last Parks & Recreation Commission meeting the pool and its new cover were discussed. He also said he would check on the lights that were out at the center parklet and discuss the community bulletin board with Mr. Ceccolini.

Members discussed the community bulletin board in front of Cheshire High School and felt it needed change. Mr. O'Donnell noted that there was no charge for town groups.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:25.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee