

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
JUNE 4, 2014
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

ABSENT: Vitarelli

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

The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bonaminio began by giving an overview of the Town Beautification Committee. He said the TBC has worked on a number of projects. The projects include the parklet at Cook Hill Road and Route10 and sponsor for the Chamber of Commerce Expo in April. At the Expo information on landscaping is available. There is also a planting station for kids where they can plant a tomato plant to take home. They enjoy it very much.

Adopt-a-Spot Program

Ms. Cacace talked about the program saying that the program has been ongoing for several years now. The locations are maintained by various organizations and businesses. The sites are: Route 691 and Route 10 exit ramp maintained by Dietrich Gardens, Country Club Road and Route 10 safety sign maintained by Temple Masonic Lodge #16, Yellow House across from Cheshire High School maintained by Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire, South End Fire House sign maintained by Paws Pet Resort & Spa, and Bartlem Park sign maintained by Cheshire Nursery & Garden Center. Ms. Cacace noted that there are also new signs this year at the locations and the areas look great.

Cheshire Chamber of Commerce Home & Business Expo and Awards Ceremony

Susan Dillman began by saying that she traveled around and took many photos at various locations showcasing Cheshire as the bedding plant capital of Connecticut. Photos of several businesses and homes in neighborhoods were displayed at the expo showing the exceptional job of landscaping their properties. An awards ceremony is held during the winter where the recipients receive a photo of the property and a plaque.

Planters

Ms. Archibald informed the committee that there are eleven new planters located in town. The TBC maintains them and they are located at town hall and on West Main Street. She said the planters basically have 3 seasons. The first planting is early in the planting season and they are Pansies. The second are the flowers for summer followed by greens during the holiday season. She also noted that some of the old wooden barrels that have been discontinued are currently being used by the Cheshire Food Pantry for herbs for the clients. Abilities without Boundaries does the watering for the town. Ms. Archibald also thanked the business along West Main Street for maintaining their properties and providing water.

St. Bridget Cemetery

Mr. Bonaminio began by telling the committee that the cemetery was landscaped many years ago and has since been overgrown and many plants have not survived. The current plan is to have the area cleaned up and split the Daylilies so they can fill in the area.

Trees at Country Club Road and Route 10

Ms. Dillman spoke about the area. She told the committee that a new design is in the works consisting of flowering and shade trees. She said it is a nice area but has been neglected. It has been brought to the attention of the committee that there is a very large evergreen tree in the center that is in need of being replaced. The property was assessed by the committee and a proposal was received from Brookside Landscaping to put in 3 flowering and 3 shade trees.

After much discussion concerning the proposal and the amount of trees to be planted the committee finally agreed on a motion to proceed with the project at a cost not to exceed \$2,590. The motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack and seconded by Ms. Cacace. The motion was carried with one abstention. Ms. Presnick-Lyon abstained.

Another suggestion was made to extend the sidewalk in the area because so many children use the area to cross the street on their way to school.

Members also discussed at length the amount of trees to be planted at the site. In the end, the decision was made to go out and measure once again to see if two or three trees would be needed. Once the decision is made, Mr. Sitko will contact the vendor to get the exact price then contact the committee to go ahead with ordering the trees. It is very important for the trees to be planted soon. The trees to be planted will be either Red Maple or London Plane.

Mr. Bonaminio also reminded everyone that the site line and the Adopt-a-Spot sign at the location should be taken into consideration before planting.

Summer Schedule

A motion was made by Ms. Cacace to skip the August meeting due to vacations and other activities and meet again in September. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

Budget

Mr. Sitko said there was about \$2,700 left in the budget but would probably be more because all the money encumbered for watering the barrels will not be used.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell reported for Parks & Recreation. He said that the Memorial Day parade went well and was well attended. The opening of the dog park on Waterbury Road was a success and the summer concert schedule at Bartlem Park is coming up. He also went on to say that the newly hired summer crews are on the job and are doing well. They are working very hard to keep the parks looking good. Mr. Bonaminio added that the parklet on Route 10 and Main Street is very well maintained by Parks & Recreation. The Kousa Dogwoods, Daffodils and the Daylilies are outstanding.

Mr. Bonaminio recognized the Sign Subcommittee of Ms. Voelker and Ms. Presnick-Lyon. He said that they review sign applications and make suggestions for the applicants. They do an outstanding job.

Mr. Bonaminio also made note of a very beautiful Cork Tree on Country Club Road. He said it was something everyone should see.

Mr. Bonaminio also recognized the committee:

Ms. Cacace – Vice Chairperson of the TBC

Mr. Meyerjack – a great asset to the committee

Mr. O'Donnell – a good Parks & Recreation liaison

Ms. Archibald & Ms. Dillman – always busy planting

Ms. Voelker – a good job with sign subcommittee

Ms. Presnick-Lyon – a big help at the ceremonial tree plantings at the schools

Ms. Vitarelli – a big help with the Expo

Arbor Day

Ms. Presnick-Lyon spoke about the Arbor Day activities. She said the program has been going on for a number of years at the local schools. She said letters are sent to the schools asking them to participate. When the TBC comes out to plant a tree, there will be a little ceremony and the children write an essay or a poem and then participate by helping to plant the tree. Every year it is interesting to see the growth of the trees planted previously.

Ms. Presnick-Lyon also acknowledged Mr. Bonaminio because of his knowledge of trees and the tremendous work he has done for the town. Mr. Bonaminio thanked her and said it's always been very interesting to work with nature and see how a huge tree can come from a tiny seed.

OTHER

Mr. Sitko announced to the committee that an information session will be held by the DOT on June 18th concerning the trail program. It will be the trail from Cornwall to West Main and from Jarvis Street to Southington.

Mr. Sitko also said that the Ball & Socket Arts will be presenting site development plans next month. The plans will go before Planning & Zoning on June 23.

Mr. Sitko announced that a grant of \$500,000 has been approved for the sidewalks on West Main Street and another grant of \$350,000 has been applied for to cover the balance of the work.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. Sitko if consideration could be given for trash receptacles to be obtained for the trail. Mr. Sitko said he would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. O'Donnell and seconded by Mr. Meyerjack.

The meeting ended at 8:24 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee