

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
JULY 2, 2014
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Voelker and O'Donnell

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7: 33 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Plan Reviews

Special Permit Application for Ball & Socket Arts, Inc.

Special Adaptive Reuse Development District and Special Development

Landscape architect, Tom Sheil of Milone & MacBroom appeared before the committee this morning to explain the project. He began by telling the committee that the project is an arts multipurpose complex and has 70,000 square feet of building space on 3 ¼ acres. The architect is David Arai of Cheshire. The plan is to renovate the buildings with limited removal of buildings. It will be a phased development. The historical buildings, which run along Willow Street, will be left intact and the project will hopefully receive historical tax credits. The Farmington Canal also runs along the west side of the property line. The vision is to restore the area so that people are able to walk in and about the area. Handicapped parking will be located in the front with more parking in the rear. The entrance to the arts center will be located towards the front on the East side of the building. Also located on the premises will be an upstairs restaurant, a teaching kitchen and a small area for retail. The area in the front of the building together with the looped drive will be landscaped with accent trees. Maple, 2 ½ inch caliper Dogwoods and Shadblow trees will be located in the front together with a mix of shrubs, Daylilies and Rhododendron. The idea is to create visibility from the street. More toward the rear will be Gingko Zelkovas. In the back of the area Zelkovas and River Birch will be planted. The screening along the property line and in the parking area will include a mix of Emerald Green and Nigra Arborvitae and Blue Point Juniper. Plain concrete sidewalks will run along the east side of the building and there will be a drop-off area on Willow Street for easy access. The front will also contain a loop drive and will be near the handicapped parking area.

Members felt that the plan is good and that the sizes of the trees to be planted are good. All were in favor.

Mr. Sitko addressed the issue of refuge for the linear trail and told the committee that the plan has changed for the crossing. He said the new plan is to have the HAWK signal pedestrian system installed. Researching the system, he found that other cities are using it without significant problems.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Bonaminio noted that the “spots” are looking good and are being maintained by their respective adoptees.

Planters

Members felt that the planters on West Main Street and town hall are looking great. They have been watered and well taken care of.

St. Bridget Cemetery.

Mr. Bonaminio said that the cemetery still needs help. He spoke with the landscaper and was told there was lots of poison ivy growing there and the weeds were very tall. Mr. Sitko offered to speak with the landscaper to see what could be done.

Trees at Country Club Road and Route 10

The new trees have been planted at Country Club Road and Route 10 and the old one removed. Members felt that the new trees looked good and would be an asset to the area. Mr. Sitko said he would find someone to remove the downed spruce. A suggestion was to have a picture taken of the area with a sign that it was a TBC project. Members felt that was a good idea.

Liaison Reports

There were no reports.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko reported that there would be some employees leaving town hall. Warren Disbrow, Assistant Town Engineer is retiring along Building Inspector Bert Schiaroli and Cheryl Corey from Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Sitko also made note of the passing of former TBC member Lee Pelz, a fine lady.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Vitarelli and seconded by Ms. Dillman.

The meeting ended at 8:36 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee