

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 3, 2014
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Dillman

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 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 July 2, 2014 meeting and seconded by Mr. O'Connell with one correction. The correction being that Ms. Presnick-Lyon had concerns because the circle drive exit at the Ball & Socket building will be too close to Willow Street. The minutes were approved as corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko said he had been informed by Sylvia Nichols that the CT Florist Association is going to rent space on East Johnson Avenue. The space will be 5000 sq. ft. They will be moving here from Monroe, CT and should be here in a month or two. The company will be doing programming and educational programs. The space will also be for administrative purposes.

BUSINESS

Adopt-a-Spot Program

Mr. Bonaminio said that all the “spots” are looking good despite the lack of rain. Ms. Cacace brought in pictures of the “spots” for all to see. Mr. Sitko said that if the committee is to give out awards this year for those that took part in the program, it was time to start thinking about the type of award to be given. Ms. Cacace suggested that a letter thanking the participants together with a plaque or something similar be given to them. Another suggestion was to give them an award when the TBC awards were given for beautification otherwise something else. Ms. Voelker thought that a “thank you for participating” letter now would be fine because an award is not necessary every year.

Planters

Ms. Archibald said that she felt the planters look great and the people that are watering are doing a fine job. Those near town hall also get fertilizer. Abilities without Boundaries are watering and doing a good job. She thought that perhaps a trash can in the area of West Main Street would be nice, but Mr. O'Donnell said that once Ball & Socket is open to the public a trash can would be warranted. Ms. Cacace asked if it is in the budget to buy more planters. Mr. Sitko said that he ordered more but is keeping them in reserve if some planters are damaged. Ms. Archibald asked if one more could be incorporated into the West Main Street area once the “greens” are planted for the holidays. Mr. Sitko also informed the committee that the town has a half million dollar grant plus the possibility of another to finish sidewalks on the north side of West Main Street to Maple Avenue.

St. Bridget Cemetery

Mr. Bonaminio said that the cemetery has been worked on and it looks much better. He felt that the lilies should be divided this fall and either Cone Flowers or Black Eye Susan be planted. Mr. Sitko said it would be nice to fill in the bare spots. Mr. Bonaminio added that a pre-emergent is needed in the fall so the weeds would be kept at a minimum.

Mr. Bonaminio also said he would check on the prices of Black Eye Susan. Mr. Sitko has met with Conn. DOT and public works staff and DOT felt that the retaining wall across from the "Wesson" property is structurally sound although unsightly.

Country Club Rd. & Route 10

The trees that were planted look good. The walkway has been discussed with public works staff. Since this is a state road, a state encroachment permit is required. The state may be developing plans for improvements at this corner. Public works staff is developing an alternative plan.

Planters

An article and picture in the Cheshire Herald last month showed Pat Archibald and Susan Dillman in front of the planters that have received Cheshire Garden Club's "Beauty Spot of the Month" award. Ms. Archibald, Dillman and Voelker have done a lot of work planting and keeping up the planters both on West Main Street and near town hall while members of the Abilities without Boundaries handle the watering twice a week.

Cheshire Herald Article Re: Town Center

Mr. Sitko also mentioned various properties that are being looked at by the town manager and his staff. Mr. O'Donnell noted that one gas station, which is at the corner of Higgins and South Main, needs plenty of repair. Ms. Archibald thought that perhaps since the town has some money for open space, some of that money could be used to fix it up and perhaps use it as a park. Mr. O'Donnell said that we don't know if the soil is contaminated or not. Mr. Sitko then said that the Seven Eleven on South Main Street is in need of renovations and he is currently trying to find out the person at corporate headquarters to contact so that it can be remodeled.

Other

Mr. Bonaminio said he was upset to learn that a tree that had been planted by the committee as part of the street tree program on West Main Street had been cut down.

Ms. Archibald announced that she is no longer president of Suburban Garden Club and said that the new president is: Linda Broker, 50 Hidden Place, Cheshire.

Mr. Sitko said he is currently writing a grant for the restoration of the front steps of town hall.

Ms. Archibald said regarding the Expo discussion: she would like to have the discussion of whether or not to be corporate sponsors without Mr. Dill present. Mr. Bonaminio said he spoke with Mr. Dill recently and Mr. Dill said that whatever the committee decides is fine with him. Mr. Bonaminio then suggested that when the TBC takes part in the show, perhaps herbs instead of little plants could be given away. This would be a change and he felt that the public would like it just as well.

Liaison Reports

No report

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Voelker and seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. The meeting ended at 8:40 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee