

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 7, 2015
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: Cacace and 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting and seconded by Ms. Presnick-Lyon. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Adopt-a-Spot Program

A letter has been drafted and sent to the Cheshire Herald for publication thanking all for their participation this past year. Another letter will be sent to see if they are also interested in participating in 2015. Mr. Sitko would like to discuss possibilities for new 'spots' in the coming year with the subcommittee. Some suggestions were Norton Farms and the Cheshire Police Station.

Planters

Members felt that the greens that are in the planters are looking good and will remain until the change in the spring. Mr. Bonaminio asked if the committee was going to add new planters along West Main Street and Mr. Sitko said that they were not, but did say that he had ordered some new ones and is keeping them in reserve.

Chamber of Commerce – Expo

Mr. Sitko said that he and Mr. Meyerjack met with Mr. Sheldon Dill of the chamber of commerce to discuss the committee's level of participation in the Expo this year. Mr. Meyerjack then reiterated that the beautification committee had made a motion to participate and Mr. Dill agreed to move the Expo date to March 28th. When the dollar amount was discussed, Mr. Dill said he would agree to accept \$800 to guarantee the beautification committee the front spot and the same location next year. For \$400 the committee would participate but would not have the premier location. They would have to take another place like any other vendor. Another alternative would be to pay the \$1200 for the Expo and the committee would be guaranteed advertising and a space for the Fall Festival too at no charge. Mr. Dill said he wants us to participate in the Expo and is willing to work with us, therefore, the committee must decide what they would like to do. After some discussion, they felt that there was plenty of foot traffic at the festival but not enough members willing to be there all day. The cost of a table would cost around \$250. Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to spend the \$800 for being a sponsor at the Expo in March. Mr. Meyerjack seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-3 vote. Mr. Bonaminio also asked for members to volunteer at the Expo in March. He said in addition to being there during the day, volunteers would also be needed for set-up and take down. Ms. Archibald thought that a suggestion box would be good idea to get the public's input on what they would like to see from the beautification committee. Members will be interested in the foot traffic and how much the public is interested in the work of the beautification committee. They would also like to see if there are garden related booths. The committee agreed to do the work this year, but will reevaluate the situation to see if they should do it again next year and if so, at what price. Ms. Dillman

suggested the following to determine if the committee participates in the future:

- 1) Increased Traffic – determine the amount of people that attend
- 2) Member Participation – how many can participate
- 3) Is Public Interested in what we have to offer
- 4) Type of Show – is it more of a garden show or replacement windows and a home improvements show.

Work Plan for 2015

Mr. Sitko presented an outline of a work plan for 2015 to the committee. There were twelve activities outlined in the plan from tree replacements to site plans and sign applications. The committee looked over the plan and discussed several pertinent activities the first being tree plantings and replacements. Mr. David Schrumm, liaison from the town council, was at hand to give the committee some thought into the planting of London Plane trees in various parts of town. He said the London Plane tree is an abundant shade tree and he has observed many of these trees in New York City and in Europe. He went on to say that the root system of this tree is rather obscure therefore it does not disturb the ground around it. It is a very striking tree even in the winter and is rarely damaged during storms. He also told the committee that it is the tree of choice in New York City and that there are approximately 90,000 of these trees there. Mr. Bonaminio agreed but added that the Bloodgood strain of these trees is the best. Some of the suggested places for planting were Country Club Road and Route 10 and the entrance to Bartlem Park. Ms. Dillman asked Mr. Schrumm about the consideration of splitting the cost of planting trees on private property with the homeowner and was told that it was not a good idea because of laws and liability. It would be much better to stick to town properties. Mr. Sitko said he would meet with Ms. Dillman and Ms. Presnick-Lyon to see how to go forward with the plantings and asked Mr. Bonaminio to join them. Ms. Presnick-Lyon then referred to the twelfth activity in the work plan and asked if that would refer to the cell towers that were about to be installed in town. She realized that the cell tower on Cheshire Street might be imminent, but thought that input from the committee prevent future towers from being as high as that one. Ms. Presnick-Lyon felt that a statement should be made to the Siting Council stating how the Town Beautification Committee feels about a cell tower of 1800'. Mr. Sitko said he would like to obtain more information and then bring it up for discussion. Ms. Presnick-Lyon said she realizes that the time for public input is over, but she would still like to comment, therefore, she will send a draft to Mr. Sitko to review.

Ms. Dillman also asked if benches could be placed at the Country Club Road and Route 10 intersection. Mr. O'Donnell said he would speak with Mr. Ceccolini about it.

Election of Officers

Mr. Sitko reminded the members that elections will take place next month.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 9:10 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee