

**CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207 / 209**

Committee Members Present:

Chairman William Bonaminio, Susan Dillman, Jane Presnick-Lyon (arrived at 7:45 a.m.), Jo-Ann Vitarelli and Mike O'Donnell - Park & Recreation Commission Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Pat Archibald, Pauline Cacace, William Meyerjack, and Lynn Voelker

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison; Attorney Ryan Corey (departed at 8:10 a.m.); Garret Harlow, Landscape Architect with Milone and MacBroom (departed at 7:55 a.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present for this meeting.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 4, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mike O'Donnell that the Town Beautification Committee approves the minutes from the February 4, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by Jane Presnick-Lyon.

VOTE: In Favor – Bonaminio, Dillman, O'Donnell, Presnick-Lyon and Vitarelli
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Bonaminio stated that he spoke with Ms. Cacace and she stated that she is ok if she is not re-elected as an officer but she would like to continue on the Committee. Mr. Sitko stated that Ms. Cacace had shared an email with members where she offered to stay on as Vice Chairperson of the Town Beautification Committee, if the other members would like her to.

Committee members discussed their concerns for members that are out of state for a number of months each Winter and the difficulty it presents at times with having a quorum to conduct business.

MOTION by Susan Dillman that the Town Beautification Committee re-elect Bill Bonaminio as Chairman. **SECONDED** by Joanne Vitarelli.

VOTE: In Favor – Bonaminio, Dillman, O'Donnell, Presnick-Lyon and Vitarelli
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

MOTION by Jane Presnick-Lyon that the Town Beautification Committee re-elect Pauline Cacace as Vice Chairman. **SECONDED** by Susan Dillman.

VOTE: In Favor – Bonaminio, Dillman, O'Donnell and Presnick-Lyon
Opposed – Vitarelli

The motion passed 4 – 1.

MOTION by Mike O'Donnell that the Town Beautification Committee re-elect Lynn Voelker as Secretary. **SECONDED** by Susan Dillman.

VOTE: In Favor – Bonaminio, Dillman, O'Donnell, Presnick-Lyon and Vitarelli
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko shared with the Committee members that Lynn Voelker, Susan Dillman, Joanne Vitarelli and Pat Archibald all had their terms with the Town Beautification Committee extended through January 31, 2017.

VII. BUSINESS

A. Plan Reviews

Committee members talked about enforcement of approved landscaping plans for what is planned vs. planted and what is done if plants die.

1. Special Permit – 138 Highland Avenue LLC
Construction of two buildings, 11 residential units with parking & utilities

Garrett Harlow, Landscape Architect from Milone and MacBroom was present on behalf of 138 Highland Avenue LLC to discuss plans for two buildings, which will have 11 residential units on Highland Avenue. Mr. Harlow explained that the property for this project is just south of Stop & Shop, next to the AT & T property on the existing horse farm.

Mr. Harlow explained that the project calls for 11 residential units split between 2 new buildings on the property and will have 24 parking spaces. He showed design plans and explained the layout of the buildings on the property. Mr. Harlow stated that many of the Sugar Maples and Oak trees on the property will be saved. In the front of the property a buffer will be added near Route 10. Additional Sugar Maples and Spruce buffer plantings, Arborvitae, Azaleas and Day Lilies are some of the proposed plantings. There will be fencing around the dumpsters on the property.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about the height of the Spruce trees along the back of the property, which will serve as a buffer between the property and Cheshire Academy's turf field with lighting. Mr. Harlow stated that the Spruce trees are a decent height but attention will be paid as the project progresses to see if additional mature trees should be added to help with the buffer.

Chairman Bonaminio noted that there is a good selection of plants, ground cover and plantings around the buildings proposed for this project.

2. Special Permit – Fifteen North Plains Industrial Road LLC
1430 Highland Avenue, Children's Day Care Center

Attorney Ryan Corey was present on behalf of Fifteen North Plains Industrial Road LLC to discuss plans for a proposed children's day care center at 1430 Highland

Avenue. Attorney Corey explained that the property is across the street from Microtech and just north of the former Cugino's Restaurant property. Currently there is a small house with a former horse farm barn. The house and barn will be taken down and the new proposed building will be set back quite a ways from Highland Avenue. The long driveway will have a turn around in front of the building with plantings. The children's day care facility will hold a maximum of 196 kids. Attorney Corey showed the design plans for this project and explained the layout of the property.

Ms. Vitarelli noted that the proposed building looks attractive and has a residential look and appears like it will blend into the area.

Attorney Corey noted that there will be a fence on the south side of the property and there will be a natural berm with Juniper and landscape tall grasses as a buffer to the wetlands.

The members present from the Town Beautification Committee agreed that the proposed project looks good and the plant selection is suitable for the property and the project.

B. Chamber of Commerce Expo – March 28

Mr. Sitko stated that the Chamber of Commerce Expo is planned for March 28th and sign up sheet was passed around for members to fill in times they are available for the event.

Chairman Bonaminio commented that the tomato plants are very small at this point because the Expo is being held a few weeks earlier. Ms. Dillman suggested that they could get marigolds or pansies to use at the Expo. It was also suggested that the planting station be moved to the front of the booth to help increase traffic to the booth.

C. Adopt-A-Spot Program

Mr. Sitko stated that the Town Beautification Committee's Adopt-A-Spot program participants received a letter asking if they want to continue on in 2015. Most of the past participants have already responded that they would like to return, including Dietrich Gardens who has agreed to take care of the location at the Interstate 691 exit / entrance ramp. Committee members suggested adding a new location in front of the new Park & Recreation sign, once it is installed.

D. Planters

There was no update on the planters at this meeting of the Town Beautification Committee.

E. Street trees

Chairman Bonaminio has suggested that 4 London Pines can be planted between the Allstate building and the Yellow House along Route 10, near Bartlem Park. He is also proposing 7 London Pine trees to the south of the Yellow House. Chairman Bonaminio noted that the trees would be planted in front of the railing that is already there but behind the sidewalk and will create some shade along the ball fields.

Ms. Presnick-Lyon stated that in regards to Trees to be Appreciated in Cheshire, on Route 68 as you are headed toward Bishop Farms near Terrill Farms Road there is a beautiful White Birch Tree. Ms. Dillman added that there is a beautiful tree, maybe a Sugar Maple near the corner of Route 68 and Wiese Road.

F. CT Florists Association

Mr. Sitko stated that the CT Florists Association will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house at their new East Johnson Avenue location on Wednesday, March 18th from 2pm – 7pm.

G. Liaison Reports

Councilman Schrumm stated that the Town Council is about to start the Operating Budget review process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joanne Vitarelli to adjourned the March 11th Special Meeting of the Town Beautification Committee at 8:42 a.m.; **SECONDED** by Susan Dillman.

VOTE: In Favor – Bonaminio, Dillman, O'Donnell, Presnick-Lyon and Vitarelli
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Substitute Recording Secretary