

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

COUNCIL LIAISON: David Schrumm (arrived at 8:30 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Chairman Bonaminio.

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. O'Donnell to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2015 meeting and seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko received two e-mails concerning the awards and adopt-a-spot programs. The one from Ms. Cacace suggested that the Yellow House was the most colorful and well-kept and deserving of an award. The second letter, from Ms. Dillman, stated that she and Ms. Vitarelli drove around Cheshire and took pictures of the places the TBC

members had suggested for awards. Of all the places they saw, they felt that Viron Rondo and Vespucci's were the best and most deserving of an award.

BUSINESS

Adopt-a-Spot Program

Several pictures taken by Ms. Dillman of the various "spots" were included in the packet. Mr. Bonaminio felt that they all looked fine but Ms. Archibald said that because of the lack of water many were not as good looking as they could be. The "spot" at Route 10 and Country Club Road needed attention but has since been cleaned up. Ms. Cacace said that the Yellow House looked great. The "spot" at Bartlem Park needed watering but most only need edging.

Members discussed that the grass on the south side of town hall has lots of crab grass. It was noted that the town decided long ago not to use pesticides. A specific place cannot be done.

Planters

Ms. Archibald began by saying how nice the planters look at the entrance to town hall. She added that they were watered frequently. The planters on West Main Street also looked good because Ms. Archibald, along with Abilities Without Boundaries, takes the time to water and fertilize them. She said she did them about every 10 days.

Mr. Sitko said that the State of Connecticut will be starting work on the continuation of the linear trail soon. The section that the state will do will be from Jarvis Street to the Southington line. Mr. O'Donnell asked if the state would be bringing landscaping plans to the TBC for review. Mr. Sitko said he felt they would.

Ms. Dillman then said that the Federated Garden Clubs of CT has been encouraging local garden clubs to plant Oak trees.

Ms. Cacace asked if it were possible to put new planters in front of town hall at the old entrance. Mr. O'Donnell said they used to be there so he thought there would be no problem.

Street Trees

Ms. Archibald made a motion to approve the planting of seven (7) London Plane trees at Bartlem Park in the fall. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

St Bridget Cemetery

Mr. Sitko began by telling the committee that he had spoken with Brookside Landscaping about cleaning up the bank at the cemetery adjacent to Route 10. Brookside thought that mulch would not work. Mr. Sitko also told the committee that the TBC got involved in this area about 15 years ago. Members suggested using a ground cover for the bank. Ms. Dillman added that for a while it would look good then it would have to be weeded. Ms. Voelker suggested using colored stones. In the end, Mr. Bonaminio said he knew of some very coarse mulch that could be used. Weeds would be sprayed periodically. Mr. Sitko said he would get a price on the mulch.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to get a quote on the removal of plants in front of the old St. Bridget Cemetery and replace them with mulch. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillman. All were in favor.

Cheshire Public Library

Mr. Sitko felt that the landscaping project at the library was a work in progress. Ms. Cacace said she would like to see taller plants closer to the building.

Awards

Ms. Dillman and Ms. Vitarelli said they had looked at various places and took pictures. Now it was up to the committee to decide who gets the awards. Ms. Dillman and Ms. Vitarelli said they felt that Viron Rondo is absolutely beautiful and you can see that there was a lot of work put into it. A close second was Vespucci's. Ms. Archibald asked if Cheshire Academy could receive an award as a "neighborhood". Mr. Sitko said it possibly could. The school had received one in 2002. When asked about private homes, Ms. Voelker said that we are a town committee, therefore, we should not give awards to private homes. Ms. Cacace suggested that Currier Woods condos receive an award, and after seeing the picture of their entrance, members agreed. Ms. Presnick-Lyon felt that the Sunoco Gas Station on South Main Street was a good candidate for an award because there was a lot of effort put in to making it look attractive.

Ms. Dillman made a motion that the TBC give an award to the following: Southwick, Temple Beth David, Vespucci's, Viron Rondo, Currier Woods and the Sunoco Gas Station. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vitarelli. All were in favor.

Signage

Mr. Sitko passed around a picture of the sign that will be made and installed for Advanced Auto Parts on South Main Street. The store will locate in part of the space of the former Staples store. It will be 10,000 SF. The TBC had no comments or objections.

Liaison Reports

Mr. O'Donnell reported that the Fall Festival will be held on September 12, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:42 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee