

**CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:30 A.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 207 / 209**

Committee Members Present:

Chairman William Bonaminio, Pat Archibald, Jane Presnick-Lyon, Jo-Ann Vitarelli and Lynn Voelker

Committee Members Absent:

Pauline Cacace, Susan Dillman, William Meyerjack, and Mike O'Donnell - Park & Recreation Commission Representative

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

John Morrison of CT Sign Service (departed at 7:45 a.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 – October 7, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Pat Archibald that the Town Beautification Committee approves the minutes from the October 7, 2015 Regular Meeting with the following correction: Page 2 “Street Tree” section, first paragraph, last sentence should read, “...Church that will be planted on the green.” **SECONDED** by Jo-Ann Vitarelli.

VOTE: In Favor – Archibald, Bonaminio, Presnick-Lyon, Vitarelli and Voelker
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VI. APPROVAL OF 2016 MEETING DATES

MOTION by Lynn Voelker to approve the 2016 meeting dates of the Town Beautification Committee and Sign Committee as presented. **SECONDED** by Jane Presnick-Lyon.

VOTE: In Favor – Archibald, Bonaminio, Presnick-Lyon, Vitarelli and Voelker
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Town Beautification Committee.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Sign Application Review – 1021 South Main Street, Big Y

John Morrison of CT Sign Service was present on behalf of Big Y’s application for a new sign at 1021 South Main Street. Mr. Morrison explained that the existing sign will be removed and the new sign would be mounted in the same location, using the internal lighting that already exists. There will also be a new sign face by the street. Mr. Sitko stated that the Zoning Enforcement Officer said that the proposed sign meets regulations and there are no violations in this proposal. All of the members present of the Town Beautification Committee commented that they agree that the proposed sign is appropriate.

MOTION by Jane Presnick-Lyon that the Town Beautification Committee accepts the Sign Permit for Big Y at 1021 South Main Street as proposed. **SECONDED** by Jo-Ann Vitarelli.

VOTE: In Favor – Archibald, Bonaminio, Presnick-Lyon, Vitarelli and Voelker
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

B. Town Hall Decorations

Mr. Sitko informed the members that the Town Hall Decorations were put up on Monday afternoon with the help of Chairman Bonaminio, Ms. Archibald the members of the Cheshire Public Works Department. The wreath on the front door will be lit up and candles will be in each of the windows. Chairman Bonaminio expressed his concern that the new railing in the front of the Town Hall is already showing signs that someone has been using it for skateboarding.

It was also noted that the group went over to the Cheshire Public Library to help with their decorating on Monday, too.

C. Planters

Ms. Archibald reported that she, Ms. Voelker and their husbands filled the planters for the Winter with greens from Dietrich Gardens. She noted that the mild weather so far allowed for a very nice batch of Frazier Fur pines from Vermont. Ms. Archibald was able to get the pines for a better price and there was very little waste. Ms. Vitarelli commented that the planters look really nice.

D. Street trees

The next planting of street trees will be in the Spring because the trees were not available this Fall.

Chairman Bonaminio stated that Bob Giddings had recently contact him for help in selecting 5 trees that were recently planted at the First Congregational Church, along with his help. As long as the Church keeps up with watering them this coming Summer, they should do great.

Ms. Voelker mentioned the landscaping that is still needed at the Rite Aid on Main Street, per their approved landscaping plan. Mr. Sitko stated that he has a copy of the plans and needs to find out who to approach regarding the landscaping needs.

Ms. Presnick-Lyon talked about the trees that were taken down between the Waverly property and Fire Department property on Maple Avenue and asked if the property owner (possibly the Stop & Shop plaza owner) could be contacted about re-planting some of the trees.

Ms. Archibald mentioned that at Chapman School, along the chain-link fence that separates the school from Route 10, more trees would like nice.

E. St. Bridget's Cemetery

Mr. Sitko stated that he has not approached St. Bridget's Church yet about taking over the maintenance of their cemetery. Ms. Dillman had sent an email with a suggestion of planting pachysandra on the bank at the cemetery rather than mulching. Chairman Bonaminio stated that it would probably cost over \$3500 for the plants, at 5 plants per square foot of the bank. He is not sure this is the right answer, he likes the day lilies, if they are split with a nice coarse mulch it would look really nice, according to Chairman Bonaminio. Ms. Archibald commented that a representative from the Church should be involved with the planning process so that they can be prepared to take over the maintenance. Committee members agreed that an "exit strategy" is needed but that they would like to help fix it up so that St. Bridget's Church can then just maintain it.

F. Awards Ceremony

The Town Beautification Committee Awards Ceremony will be held in February on the Regular Meeting date, probably before the meeting at which the election of officers is scheduled.

G. Liaison Reports

There were no Liaisons present at this meeting of the Town Beautification Committee. Mr. Sitko noted that the new Town Council will be sworn in on Sunday and then Monday will be an organizational meeting where new Committee assignments will be made. Mr. Sitko commented that it is important for all liaisons to the Town Committees come on a regular basis to their assigned Committee meetings and to report back to the Town Council as to what each Committee is working on, otherwise they Town Council doesn't know.

Mr. Sitko thanked the Town Beautification Committee members for all their hard work over the past year and wished them all Happy Holidays.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lynn Voelker to adjourned the December 2nd Regular Meeting of the Town Beautification Committee at 8:24 a.m.; **SECONDED** by Jane Presnick-Lyon.

VOTE: In Favor – Archibald, Bonaminio, Presnick-Lyon, Vitarelli and Voelker
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Substitute Recording Secretary