

**MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MAY 4, 2016
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207**

PRESENT: Archibald, Voelker, Cacace, O'Donnell, Dillman
and Meyerjack

ABSENT: Bonaminio, Vitarelli and Presnick-Lyon

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Archibald called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting were accepted by Ms. Dillman and seconded by Ms. Voelker with two corrections. The corrections are: on page 2 under Communications the third paragraph should read "Ms. Archibald added that the Federation of Garden Clubs is providing" not the State of Connecticut. Also, on page 3 under St. Bridget Cemetery the first line should read "Mr. Sitko had a conversation with Father Romans" not that he met with Father Romans.

Ms. Cacace then made a motion to accept the corrected minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Meyerjack. All were in favor and accepted the minutes as corrected.

A motion was made by Mr. Meyerjack to approve the minutes of the Sign Subcommittee meeting held on April 20, 2016 and was seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. All were in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Site Plan Review – Nosal Properties of Cheshire, LLC, Fieldstone Court

Ms. Suzanne Schore of Milone & MacBroom appeared before the committee to explain the plans for Fieldstone Court. The plan is for a 25,000 sq. ft. office/warehouse. 10,000 sq. ft. will be occupied by the applicant and the rest by Shred-It. The property is basically a wooded site around the perimeter and is at the end of a cul-de-sac. The planting plan is a simple plan in front with Hydrangeas, Winterberry and Rhododendrons and larger trees such as Red Maple, River Birch, Frasier Fir and Japanese Maple in the rear. The trees will be planted approximately 20' apart. There is no plan available for a sign at this time. A motion was made by Ms. Voelker to accept the plan as presented and seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. All were in favor.

Planters

Since the April meeting, the contract price of watering the planters has risen from \$25 to \$30 per watering.

Ms. Archibald said she and Ms. Cacace have planted Pansies in the planters on West Main Street. They look very nice. She also announced that she has received the planters that were on order for in front of town hall and Mr. Bonaminio is making up the potting mix for them. The newly purchased planters will be placed on either side of the front door of town hall. The planters are similar to the ones at the Senior Center and the library. Plants for them are on order.

Street Trees

New street trees have been ordered and will be planted in Bartlem Park. Seven or eight additional trees will be planted there along Route 10.

St. Bridget Cemetery

Mr. Sitko reported that the old St. Bridget Cemetery along Route 10 was cleaned up and mulched heavily. The price was \$1640. The work was done by Brookside Landscaping. The cemetery will no longer be a project of the TBC.

Arbor Day Activities

Two trees have been planted thus far. One, a dogwood, was planted at Highland School and the other, a Kwansan Cherry was planted at Chapman School. There are no plantings scheduled for this week but the week of May 9th has two plantings scheduled. The first will be at Norton School on May 10th and the second on May 11th at Doolittle School. Both schools will be receiving Flowering Cherry trees.

There was some discussion among the members concerning the watering of the trees that have already been planted. Members feel that the trees are not receiving enough water to sustain them and are slowly dying. Mr. Sitko said a letter will be sent to the school principals to remind them about watering the trees during the summer.

Trees to Be Appreciated

There are six trees on the list of trees to be appreciated. TBC subcommittee members spoke with some of the property owners of the trees and said the owners were delighted that their trees were chosen.

The trees that are to be appreciated are located at: 376 Academy Road (Sugar Maple), 252 Argyle Road (Chionanthus Fringe Tree), 265 Cornwall Ave. (Clump of River Birch), 4 Glenbrook Drive (Clump of White Birch), 345 Sorghum Ridge Road (Weeping Cherry) and 39 Wiese Road (Japanese Red Maple). They also noted that the tree at 376 Academy Road was approximately 135 years old.

Ms. Dillman mentioned that she saw a tree on Country Club Road that could be noted next year. The tree is a Copper Beech.

There was also some discussion about the Bradford Pear trees that are located along Route 10. The concern was about the pruning of the trees and its expense. The cost for this year is \$6400 which is split between the town beautification committee and the public works budgets. Members would like to bring this matter up for discussion at another meeting. Mr. Sitko said that the pruning is necessary or the trees won't last. He said that if the committee decides to discontinue the pruning and the trees are lost, then the TBC is accountable. Perhaps another approach would be to obtain additional quotes or prune the trees on a 3, rather than 2-year pruning cycle.

Adopt-a-Spot Program

Mr. Sitko announced that the signs for the various “spots” are up. The “spot” at the exit ramp of I-691 is outstanding. It is currently planted with yellow and purple pansies and is being maintained by Dietrich Gardens. Most “spots” will be planted and ready for Memorial Day.

The location of spots and sponsors are:

I-691 West, Exit 3 – Dietrich Gardens
Country Club/Rt. 10 Safety Sign – Cheshire Freemasons Temple Lodge 16
South End Firehouse – Paws Pet Resort & Spa
Yellow House, Rt. 10 – Suburban Garden Club
Bartlem Recreation Area Sign – Parks & Recreation

Liaison Reports

Mr. O’Donnell said that Parks & Recreation is doing their best to keep the various areas looking their best but don’t have any extra help. There are five workers for all the areas. Mr. Sitko asked if Mr. O’Donnell could speak with parks and recreation about planting flowers in front of the old town hall before Memorial Day.

Discussion

Mr. Sitko said that there should be two new sign subcommittee projects coming in May. The two are: an Eagle Scout project and a new sign for Cheshire Lutheran Church.

Mr. Sitko also noted the work that is being done in front of town hall. The Civil War Monument in front of the Congregational Church is being restored and the bricks at the Veterans Memorial in front of town hall are being replaced with granite.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Cacace and seconded by Mr. Meyerjack. All were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:25 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee