PRESENT: Bonaminio, Truluck, Presnick-Lyon, Voelker, Linder, and Archibald

ABSENT: Trifone, Dawson, Cacace, Meyerjack, Pelletier and Ecke

STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
A quorum was not available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of the October and November meetings were not approved.

COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES
The approval of dates for the upcoming year 2011 were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

BUSINESS

Plan Reviews
Special Permit Application – 1607 Reinhard Road
Add recycling use to existing approved site plan

Mr. Sitko began by telling the committee that the application is a permitted use and that the operation will be under cover, as required. Attorney Fazzone, together with representatives from Milone & MacBroom, were available to explain to the committee what the project would involve. Attorney Fazzone began by reminding the committee that this property had been previously reviewed concerning the storage yard and garden
center. He also said that one of the requirements of the storage yard is that the property be screened. He went on to say that there is a consistent area of screening of pine trees around the property. Attorney Fazzone said that because of an upgrade to lines by the utility companies, a lot of copper and aluminum wiring is being replaced therefore creating the need for recycling and the need for this application. Placing the material inside would minimize the potential for theft. Attorney Fazzone went on to say that the applicant is prepared to reinforce the screening by adding more evergreen plants. An additional landscaping plan was not presented because basically the site is fully occupied. The applicant, however, is willing to listen to any suggestions from the committee. Mr. Sitko added that the growth around the property is dense. Attorney Fazzone noted that several greenhouses will be replaced with steel buildings toward the interior of the property where trucks can be driven in and unloaded and the materials prepared for recycling. The requirements of Planning & Zoning are such that the work must be done inside with no more than two dumpsters outside. Mr. Sitko suggested, and TBC members agreed, that a revised plan be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Commission showing the location and type of trees that will be planted to reinforce the existing screen. Attorney Fazzone concurred with this suggestion.

Sign Reviews
There were no sign reviews.

Expo
There was nothing to report.

Adopt-a-Spot
Members commented favorably about the area at the I-691 exit ramp, maintained by Dietrich Gardens. The area has been planted with cabbages and decorated with pumpkins and looks awesome. There was also some discussion about obtaining a new “welcome” sign at the eastbound I-691 exit. Mr. Sitko said there was a possibility, perhaps in the future, budget permitting.

Tree Subcommittee
There was nothing to report.

Barrels
Currently, the greens in the barrels are in need of ribbons for the holidays. Mention was also made of the attractive garland and wreaths on town hall. The spotlight on the front of the town hall will also be installed. Mr. Sitko mentioned that when the parklet near St. Peter’s is replanted, perhaps electricity could be added for future use to light several trees.
West Main Street Commercial Area
Mr. Sitko began by explaining to the committee that the ornamental lights have been installed with one exception. He also said that one item still remains for this year. The granite curbing will be installed as part of phase I from Willow to Warren Streets on the south side of West Main. He went on to say that the plans for phase II are going to DOT this week or next for their review. After DOT signs off, the project will go out to bid, perhaps in February or March. After the culvert is finished, the contractor will return to finish the streetscape. Mr. Sitko said he is also looking into additional grant possibilities, particularly for sidewalk construction.

TBC Awards
Mr. Sitko said that the committee should think about having the awards ceremony every two years.

Town Hall Decorative Wall
Mr. Bonaminio said that there are still two blocks to be replaced and said he would get to it as soon as possible.

Artsplace
Mr. Bonaminio said that the front of Artsplace has been kept up well.

Street Trees
Members discussed the planted trees in front of the new Rite Aid Pharmacy. They felt a few more trees should have been planted near the road. Members also discussed replacing some trees on Cornwall Avenue. The Cheshire Park plantings were also discussed. Ms. Voelker added that plantings were needed at Alderson Funeral Home.

REPORTS

Parks & Recreation
There was no report.

Economic Development
There was no report.

Town Council
Mr. Sitko reported that the town council will be starting on the operating budget soon. He also said that there was discussion concerning the completion of the linear trail. Mr. Sitko added that the State of Connecticut is considering helping the town with the design of the trail from Cornwall Avenue to Southington.
Planning & Zoning
There was no report.

OTHER
Ms. Presnick-Lyon told the committee that the federal government may mandate that all street and road signs be redesigned. This would be a considerable cost to municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT
The discussion ended at 8:18 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, Clerk
Town Beautification Committee