MINUTES
TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2010
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL
ROOM 207

PRESENT: Bonaminio, Dawson, Truluck, Trifone, Lyon, Linder, Archibald and Presnick-Lyon
ABSENT: Cacace, Meyerjack, Voelker and Ecke
STAFF: Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
Upon the arrival of Jeremy Linder at 7:50 a.m., a quorum was determined.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Ms. Lyon and seconded by Ms. Truluck to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2010 meeting. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Ms. Truluck and seconded by Ms. Archibald to approve the minutes of the Sign Subcommittee meeting held on August 18, 2010. All were in favor. Mr. Dawson and Ms. Lyon abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

BUSINESS
Plan Reviews
Special Permit – Cheshire Development Company, LLC, 115 South Main Street Mixed Use Development with Medical Offices and Residential Units.
Mr. Sitko began the discussion by telling the committee that the proposed plan is on the south end of town next to the fire station. He also said that there will be two 2,500sq. ft. buildings to be used for medical and residential purposes.

Mr. Michael Doherty, landscape architect for Milone & MacBroom, presented the plan to the committee and answered any questions that they might have. He began by telling the committee that the buildings will each be two stories, the first floor for medical use and the second floor for residential use. King Road borders the west side of the property. What’s being proposed right now is to maintain the curb cut on Route 10 and add parking for the two buildings being proposed. Thirty four parking spaces have been included as per Planning & Zoning regulations. Some trees and shrubs around the buildings will remain, but other trees will need to be removed to accommodate the parking. Proposed landscaping includes shrub and perennial plantings around the buildings and adding trees where necessary. Mr. Bonaminio suggested a buffer be included with some evergreens or Arborvitae. There was also some discussion about having the Route 10 entrance be one way and King Road entrance also one way to alleviate the traffic problems.

Mr. Doherty said he will also come before Planning & Zoning for a waiver for delayed parking. He said that he would like to remove some parking spaces and put them back in when needed. The committee felt it would be better to see grass than blacktop.

The committee was pleased with the plan and the only major suggestion was to build up the screening to provide a buffer along the north side of the property and to landscape an area in the northeast corner of the property (similar to the southeast corner).

Mr. Sitko also reminded the committee that Mr. Doherty is instrumental in working on the West Main Street project and is doing a great job.

COMMITTEES

Sign subcommittee

There was no report

Expo

There was no report.

Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko said that letters have gone out reminding those responsible for “spots” to keep them up. Some have responded favorably and some have not. Mr. Sitko said they have one week to clean up their “spots” before the sign is removed.
Trees

Mr. Bonaminio asked about planting new trees in town. Mr. Sitko responded by telling him that money has been encumbered for planting trees at Cheshire Park. Mr. Bonaminio said he would look into having these trees be planted in the fall.

Barrels

The committee agreed that the barrels are in excellent shape. Considering the hot summer we had and lack of rain, the barrels survived well. Members also agreed that the park at Maple Avenue and Route 10 looks great now that the arbor has been removed.

West Main Street Commercial Area

The area is coming along nicely. The pavers on the south side of the road are finished and looking great and work is now proceeding on the north side. One change order that has been issued is the extension of pavers west as far as Ives Row. Mr. Sitko said he has also applied for another grant of $350,000 for streetscape money, with the approval of the council, and if money is left over, it would be used for sidewalks up as far as Waverly Street. When completed in 2011, the project will extend as far as Grove/Warren Streets.

TBC Awards

Mr. Bonaminio asked the committee to keep looking for properties that look attractive so they can be recognized next year.

Town Hall – Decorative Wall

Mr. Bonaminio said that a couple more blocks have to be added to the very end of the wall. This small area will be completed shortly.

Artsplace

The committee felt that Artsplace is looking good.

Street Trees

Mr. Bonaminio asked if any trees could be planted at this time. Mr. Sitko said that a good place to start would be by replacing trees that have been damaged or lost, especially the Bradford Pear
Street Trees

trees with another variety. Mr. Bonaminio suggested that different types of Cherry Trees would be a good idea and have the same colorful effect in the spring when they blossomed. He added that having a different variety is a good idea. Mr. Bonaminio said he would work on a plan.

REPORTS

Parks & Recreation

Mr. Trifone reported that the monthly meeting will be taking place tonight. He also said that the summer crew has left and they helped with many tasks during the summer. The parklet has been cleaned and looking well. Mr. Sitko said that the town will be receiving a check from Yankee Gas for $18,750 to replace the brick sidewalk along Route 10. Mr. Bonaminio suggested that perhaps some grading and landscaping around the pressure regulators would be helpful and make them look more acceptable. Mr. Sitko said Yankee Gas would take care of this.

Economic Development

Mr. Sitko noted that Business Appreciation Day will once again be held in May at Elim Park and all will be invited.

Town Council

Mr. Sitko said that the council has just finished with the Capital Budget.

Planning & Zoning

Mr. Dawson told the committee that P&Z was on vacation during the month of August so no business has been transacted.

Discussion

Ms. Archibald asked about the sandwich board signs that have been erected in various parts of town. She wondered if there were rules governing them and what those rules were. Mr. Dawson felt that signs in residential neighborhoods should also be prohibited.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dawson and seconded by Mr. Trifone. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 8:31 a.m.
Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee