PRESENT:  Bonaminio, Sampson, Voelker, Trifone, and Archibald,
ABSENT:  Cacace, Altobello, Ecke, DiNicola, Truluck and Dawson
STAFF:  Gerald L. Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting will be approved at the
February meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

BUSINESS
Plan Reviews
There were no plan reviews.
Sign Reviews

1) Mt. Top Liquors – 2121 Meriden-Waterbury Road – Additional Sign

Mr. Paul Bianca of Bianca Sign, Inc., New Britain, CT presented the application this morning and answered questions from the committee. He began by telling the committee that the building is situated approximately 100’ away from the road and that the application is for an additional sign nearer the road. The new sign is to be 4’x 8’, illuminated and double sided. It will also have black steel posts. The committee agreed with the application, but asked that the owner be asked to plant some type of landscaping at the base of the sign in the spring.

2) Cheshire Detailing, LLC – Gulf Oil – 1125 Highland Ave.

Mr. Kevin Curry, a distributor for Gulf Oil, came before the committee to present the plan for a change in the Gulf Oil sign at 1125 Highland Avenue. He began by explaining to the committee that Gulf Oil is changing their corporate look. Basically, the face of the sign is being changed and a canopy at the gas station is to be added. A “cloud” image is being added to make the sign more visible. Mr. Sitko suggested he speak with the Zoning Enforcement Officer to make sure the sign regulations are complied with. He also mentioned that the basic job of the Town Beautification Committee is to check colors and compatibility and that Mr. Curry would have to return for a zoning permit and then apply for a building permit. The proposed signs were found to be acceptable provided the number of signs on the canopy meet the sign regulations.

Sign Subcommittee

There was no report.

Expo

Mr. Sitko reported that the next meeting of the Expo committee will be held next Wednesday, January 13 at 2 p.m. at the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. It was also noted that the TBC will once again be a premier sponsor for 2010 with a donation of $1200.
Adopt-a-Spot

Mr. Sitko noted that letters will soon be sent to businesses regarding next year’s sponsorship. Currently, the only change is that Dietrich Gardens will take over the plantings for the sign at the Rt. 691 exit ramp.

Tree Subcommittee

Mr. Bonaminio asked the committee to begin looking for notable trees.

Barrels

Members were very happy with the look of the barrels, but thought that next year the bows should be a little higher so they would be more visible when it snowed.

West Main Street Commercial Area

Mr. Sitko told the committee that the plans from west of the culvert to Deepwood Drive are with the State Department of Transportation and should be back to us in a few weeks. Mr. Sitko expects that the committee will meet later this month.

TBC Awards

Mr. Sitko said that the updated list of recipients for 2009 were in the packet. The Miele Law Firm had been omitted. The committee felt that it should be added to the list. As previously discussed, members noted that there is to be a 10 year space between receipt of awards.

Town Hall Decorative Wall

It was noted that previous problems have been resolved and the wall is looking good. Mr. Sitko asked the members to begin thinking about developing a planting plan for behind the wall. Mr. Sitko said the TBC should work with Paul Fitzsimmons of the Parks and Recreation Department. Various plants were suggested.
Artsplace
Mr. Sitko said he spoke with the director at Artsplace and they agreed that the sign needed to be spruced up a bit. More will be discussed in the spring.

Holiday Lights
Mr. Bonaminio said he felt that the wreath on Town Hall door looked magnificent. Mr. Sitko also reminded the committee that lights in front of Town Hall are a problem because there was no safe power source. Ms. Sampson suggested looking into battery operated or solar lighting.

Parks and Recreation
Mr. Trifone said that not much was happening at the moment, but there was a meeting tonight. He said most of the meeting would probably be devoted to the budget. Mr. Trifone also noted that in the spring two new ball fields would be in operation.

Economic Development
Mr. Sitko told the committee to expect plans in the near future for a proposed self storage facility in the north end of town near Jordan Caterers.

Town Council
The council is currently looking toward the budget. Mr. Sitko also mentioned that in the future the committee may be asked to look at the inside of Town Hall for possible improvements.

Planning & Zoning
Mr. Sitko mentioned that Ms. Cacace spoke with Mr. Strollo about the need for Planning and Zoning representation on the TBC.

Other: It was noted that the pavers in front of Town Hall are not in good shape. Members felt they should be fixed or repaired because they are cracking and buckling. Mr. Sitko said he would give the committee an estimate of what money would be available at year end and perhaps it could be used for the purpose of repairing the pavers.
Ms. Voelker made a motion to end the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:27 a.m.

Attest:

Patricia W. Kuzmak, clerk
Town Beautification Committee