

Beautification Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2014
9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Sandy Drimmel, Sabina Harris, Cindy Ryan, Marianne Wadleigh, Marcia Meinerth, Bob Wolkwitz, Nina Miller, Heather Pommernelle
Absent: Sandy Filmer, Sig Buchmayr, Cara Gates

Action items are noted in red.

Financials

- MM went through the budget to date. Busy discussing with Finance Department how to best allocate invoices paid.
- **MM sending out 2nd invoices** for pending AAG sponsors payments: Paw Prints, Noroton Heights Shopping Center & Rowayton Seafood.
- MM distributed list of vendors that don't charge us tax and will bill BC directly. **She will submit forms for additional vendors**, to include an addition of Van Engelen Bulbs.

Baskets

- SD & SH counted number of baskets required to cover the same area, but with no baskets where there are parking signs. Total would be 67 (last year there were 78). Discussed whether it's possible to lower "No Parking" signs - as was done for some Christmas wreaths - so there's enough space to hang both baskets? 15 signs at the most would need to be moved. **SH/SD will double check exact number of signs that would need to be moved. SS will then contact Jayme for help.**
- Additional baskets discussed for Day Street (8 baskets); **SS to ask the property owner to pay for these baskets.** BC would like to also add baskets on Post Road in Noroton (24 approximately); **SH/SD to double check number required.** 50% prepayment for baskets needs to be submitted soon in order to receive 5% discount.

AAGs

- A Darien resident suggested that someone adopt the garden with the Town of Darien sign coming from the Stamford direction on Post. (See below)
- Garden Club of Darien possible change of location: **CR to ask them whether they want The Town Of Darien sign.**
- Garden on the left side of the road as go to Rowayton, before the bridge, across from Rowayton Seafood's garden: raised as an area to possibly tidy up. Marian Castell from the Commission of Monuments & Ceremonies (M&C) asked about it, as there's a monument there. **CR to contact Marian to see who in M&C has responsibility for it for the placement. SS to contact Rowayton Garden Club** to see if they're involved or want to be involved in clean up.

Donated Plants

- Planting of plants donated from Valley View are currently at the DCA. Either can be planted at the berm or in the pots around town. **MW to look and make suggestions for use.**
- John's daughter's donations. **SS to contact** and let them know we'll take them in the spring.
- Karen Hughan suggested maybe the Tree Conservancy would donate trees. **CR to follow up.**

Other

- New member status: BW has been confirmed on the board. Jack Hair possible person to contact; **SB to contact**. Agreed to replace non-active members with new members. Replacement for JS also needed.
- SS updated all on Tegu gardens: nothing confirmed; will wait to hear from him.
- Hugh Kelley emailed SS, etc. that boulders must be moved before January 20th or the state is threatening to change the terms of the bond. DPW moved them to the dump area.
- DPW winter work projects: George says he's unable to cut back grasses & reeds at berm, or anything else at this time.
 - The reeds are apparently a flooding issue (per the EPC); **SS to contact Jayme.**
 - **BW to organize us cutting the grasses with his hedge trimmer; SS to ask DPW to toss the refuse.**
- Planning of spring activities:
 - Town-wide Clean-up set for April 26th.
 - AAG clean-up: agreed that we see how funding looks; if it's not enough to pay Elder, BC members to work out a clean-up schedule amongst themselves.
- BC urns around town: **MW to decide what to put in the pots, and how they'll be managed going forward. MM to set up \$400 for this project.**
- Meetings
 - October 2014 meeting moved to 10/20 due to 10/13 holiday.
 - Agreed a meeting next month is necessary.

Next Meeting Monday, February 10th at 9am, Town Hall Room B-3