

Beautification Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 10th, 2014
9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

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

Absent: Cara Gates

Action items are noted in red.

Financials

- MM mentioned that the town's budget is not yet approved, so our budget from July 1st is still pending. **MM to email the board with the approved number when it's available.**
- AAG sponsor payments. Outstanding money due for 2013: \$1200 from Paw Print and \$600 for Rowayton Market; **MM is following up and expects to have the money this month. MM to send out 2014 invoices to sponsors this month.**

Town-wide Clean-up, Saturday April 26th

- **SS is contacting:** Friends of Tokeneke, Pear Tree Point School, Friends of Pear Tree Point Area, Darien Men's Association, Indian Princes & their father, Friends of Weed Beach, Green Team, Will Hughey from Tegu, The Depot, The George Family, Atria Senior Living. **MW to approach the Girl Scouts Council. MM to contact the ABC group. SH to contact the DHS Community Service Group. NM to contact the Eco - Citizens Club.** BC supplies bags, gloves and pick-up sticks. **MM to look for donations of supplies.**
- **SS to advise town hall, DPW and Darien Police of the planned activity.**

AAGs

- **SS will speak to Elder to confirm his new contract. CR and SD will provide SS with an updated map/list of AAG locations and new basket locations that Elder will need to take care of. SS will attach these lists/map to Elder's 2014 contract.**
- **CR/SH to look at AAGs, and list what needs to be done by Elder. To email board with trash pick-up, and other work we help with.**
- Town of Darien sign garden (Stamford side); search for new sponsor. **CR to look into this.**
- Change in locations for GCD - town of Darien sign? **CR to speak to the group.**
- AAG sign at exit 11 (Gardener's Center) is broken and needs to be replaced. **SH/CR to order.**

Hanging Baskets

- SD ordered 153 baskets and put 50% deposit down.
- SD has sent the invoices to Dolcetti's, Penny Glassmeyer, the library, Darien Rowayton Bank and Tom Geary.
- SD purchased chains for those who needed, and included in invoices accordingly.

Other

- Garden on the left side of the road as go to Rowayton, before the bridge across from Rowayton Seafood's garden.
 - SS confirmed the Rowayton Garden Club are very supportive of anyone tidying up the area, but they will not help with the work.
 - Since any garden would block the monument, and it's not a prominent area, the board agreed to not pursue a garden in this spot.
- New members
 - SS introduced Michael Chiodo, new interested member!
 - **SS to contact Jayme to interview Annie Sullivan (independent); and Jim Palen from the Republican Party (at Jayme's suggestion) to interview Michael Chiodo (Republican). SS will also ask Jayme whether Jayme will inform Cara Gates that she is officially to be removed from the BC commission for no attendance, as we need her spot for new incoming BC members.**
- Board agreed to change all meetings to start at 8:30am. **HP to advise the town.**
- Discussed the garden towards Five Mile River Road that SB previously raised. **Michael to suggest neighbors to SF to approach as Adopt-A-Spot sponsors.**
- **SB/BW to cut back grasses & reeds at berm this month.**
- MW has plants for the BC urns, ready to plant once they're thawed. SD spoke to Greg Palmer; he's agreed to have their landscaper take care of 3 of the pots (near Post Office).
- Post office planter: MW to remove the GCD sign since they aren't maintaining the pot going forward. **MW/SH to have a new sign for beautification placed.**
- John Schlachtenhaufen wants to still be actively involved with the berm. **SS to get his ideas about the large clumps of grasses in the center bottom of the berm (should they be divided?), and bald spot near the top right of the slope.** His daughter has plants she's offered to donate; maybe some will work for the berm.
- Plants donated from Valley View (at DCA). **SS/MW plan to plant Spirea in bald spot at the top of the berm.**
- CR reminded all that the DCA bird sanctuary has vinca and pachysandra that we can take and use as needed.
- Girl Scout garden at Tilley Pond. Parks & Rec manages it. Ginger Morgan/girl scouts would be interested in taking care going forward if we get the wall fixed. **SH to speak to Parks & Rec about fixing the wall.**

Next Meeting: date to be April 7th, 8:30 at Town Hall Room B-3