

Beautification Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
April 7th, 2014
8:30am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Cindy Ryan, Sig Buchmayr, Sabina Harris, Sandy Drimmel, Marianne Wadleigh, Sandy Filmer, Heather Pommernelle, Marcia Meinerth; and Nina Miller, Michael Chiodo and Annie Sullivan (members at large)

Absent: Bob Wolkwitz, Cara Gately

Action items are noted in red.

SS covered membership updates:

- MW, SH, SF, SD, HP all renewed for another 3 years on the board
- Interviews are in process for Annie Sullivan and Michael Chiodo.
- CG will need to resign in order for our group to add a 13th active board member; **SS is contacting her.**

Town Email Address for BC business.

- The group discussed the use of the new addresses, and what types of communication they were to be used for: possibly when contacting town officials, but not for notes just amongst ourselves confirming meet times and similar arrangements. NM mentioned that the RTM is discussing how the addresses are expected to be used. We will wait to see the result of these discussions.

Town-wide Clean-up April 26th from 8:00am

- Confirmed volunteers to date: Friends of Tokeneke, Pear Tree Point School (plant flowers in front of Town Hall Friday, May 16th), Friends of Pear Tree Point (Pear Tree Point marshland), Darien Men's Association (Darien train station parking lots, the Berm, Post Road & Tokeneke intersection), Indian Princes & their father (Weed Beach), Brownies (MW coordinating), ABC group (Tokeneke Road Sunday, April 27th), The Depot (Depot area), Friends of Selleck Woods (Selleck Woods), Darien Nature Center (Cherry Lawn), Darien Land Trust (Dunlop Woods), Friends of Gorham Pond (Gorham Pond), Brooks Brothers (parking area and surround, date tbc). Groups not yet confirmed: Will Hughey and Tegu, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts (**AS to follow up**).
- Atria Senior Living will plant the town hall planter on Friday, May 16th - **HP to take photo.**
- Repair of the stone wall at Tilley Pond's Girl Scout garden: we believe Ginger Morgan will sponsor this work, then have her group clean-up the garden. **SH to follow up.**
- MW received a donation of black bags. Carol Wilder Tamme to coordinate coffee and bagels for early bird volunteers. **SS to coordinate bags, gloves, sticks.**
- **SS will get permits and contact Police Dept to make them aware of volunteers working on the roads on 4/26.**

- BC board members will work entrance & exits 11, 12 and 10. All should wear their BC vests. Meet at 8:00am behind Upper Crust Bagel for coffee.

Proposed new sign for Giovanni's and nearby town signage.

- Members were asked to look at the area to discuss at this meeting. General consensus was that - though the current mocked up Giovanni's sign is taller than proposed - the new signage (at the corrected height) will improve the area and not obstruct existing town signage.
- Many suggested that the Town of Darien sign needs to be repaired; **SH to speak to DPW about possible repair.**
- Discussed the Rotary, Kiawanis, and Healthy Heart signs placed near the town sign should be better organized - maybe even attached to the posts of the town sign. **All to discuss further at the May meeting, bringing photos of how other towns handle this signage, and ideas on what we'd prefer, to use as a standard for town.**

AAGs

- Giovanni's has agreed to adopt the Town Of Darien (from Stamford direction) sign garden. **CR will collect sign money then order it. HP to add this new garden to the AAG map.**
- GCD will stay at their Ledge Road garden.
- Replacement sign for Garden Center Exit 11 has been ordered; **CR to follow up.**
- **MM to collect pending 2013 sponsor payments: \$1200 Paw Prints, \$600 Rowayton Market. MM to send out 2014 season invoices.**
- **SS to email CR, asking her to email the group with gardens she's like help with.**

Hanging baskets

- SD confirmed that the hanging baskets (153 baskets) will be delivered on Thursday, May 22nd. **BC members that can join should meet at 8am in the Goodwives parking lot.** We will separate the baskets into groups - those for the library, DPS, etc. - and deliver to those that ordered them.
- **SH to create a map showing placement of all baskets,** for use by those hanging them on the 22nd, and for Elder's contract.
- **SS to invite Bob Baker and John Schlachtenhaufen to help.**
- SD has received all checks for businesses/departments that ordered baskets.

Garden & basket maintenance

- SS confirmed Elder Santiago is ready to start working! **SS finalizing the contract with him.**

Finance

- The group received a \$300 donation check from UBC Recycling.
- MM confirmed our budget for 2014-2015 is \$26,000.

Other

- **SG/SH/NM to cut back grasses at berm this week.**
- **MW will plant BC urns this weekend.**
- **SH looking into new BC sign for the Darien Post Office pot.**

- Sponsorship of Five Mile River Project garden: MC organized a clean-up and some planting.
- **HP to inventory donated Valley View plants that are still alive.** Three possible locations: The Berm, Noroton Heights train station, and DTC garden.

Next Meeting: 8:30am, May 12th, Town Hall Room B-3