

**Beautification Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
8:30am, Town Hall Room B-3

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

Action items are noted in red.

#### Membership

- SS has been told we are unable to remove someone from the board even though they have never attended a meeting and are not helping in any BC projects. We have to wait for their term to expire (3 years).

#### Town Email Address for BC business.

- RTM is still discussing if they'll change how we're to use the new email town email addresses.

#### Town-wide Clean-up / Additional Clean Ups planned:

- Clean-up went well; thank you to all who participated! Darien Times covered the event with photos on the front page; SS's letter to the editor thanking participants was also published.
- Tegu Toy project - SS mentioned they plan to clean up the corner of Post Road and Tokeneke Road, and may plant as well. Date to be confirmed.
- Pear Tree Point 3rd grade planting project is scheduled for 1pm on Friday, 5/16. MN, HP & nephew, and possibly SF will supervise. SS Purchased plants and bulbs. MC & MW are donating daffodil bulbs as well. (If rained out, the rain date would be in June.)
- Barlow Pelle - SS mentioned he would like to clean up the Pear Tree Point/Rings End bridge area. SS to follow up.
- Girl Scouts/Tilley Pond project - SH mentioned the date may be in June; MW to confirm.
- Brownie group wants to buy plants to plant this Wednesday - CR/MC will let SS know where we want them to plant.
- Atria residents are planning to plant the town hall urn; date TBC. SS will check if the date is close; if not we may make other plans so the pot is addressed.

#### Giovanni's project and Signage update

- Giovanni's sign mock-up will not be updated further; when it is installed it will be at the approved height.
- Repair of Town of Darien sign. SH to see if DPW will fix the sign.
- Discussed placement of Rotary, Kiwanis, and Healthy Heart signs. The state controls the signs; town employees are not allowed to move them. SS to contact the groups and propose a new location off of Exit 11 North.

## AAGs

- Status of Giovanni's new garden: all plants are gone and soil looks prepared for planting.
- Replacement sign for Garden Center Exit 11: **CR will place this today.**
- Elder has cleaned several AAGs; to finish the rest.
- **CR planted donated Valley View Spirea into Noroton Heights Train Station.**
- Other plant donations to be planted; **CR/MC to look at placement of plants:**
  - From John Schlachtenhaufen: 6-7 roses + 3-4 white Rose of Sharon
  - From MC: 6 gold-thread Cypress, 2 Alberta Spruce, 3 boxwood
- CR reported the Garden Club decided they don't want an Adopt a Garden spot anymore.
- MM updated all on the collection of 2013 AAG fees: Paw Prints & Rowayton Market are finally paid. 2014 fees for all gardens have been paid.
- Discussed whether to pay Elder to pull dandelions around the AAGs. Decided to focus on other priorities this year; can readdress next year.

## Hanging baskets

- All available board members are asked to meet at 8am on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Goodwives parking lot. **All should bring wire cutters and step ladders.**
- Additional help: **HP to reconfirm Bob Baker will be there; SS to contact John Schlachtenhaufen.**
- Map for placement of baskets: **SH to distribute copies on Thursday.**
- **SH to ask for DPW staff to help with this project from 8am.**

## Elder Santiago update

- **SH to ask DPW to put the hose to the tank outside for Elder to use.**
- **SH to give Elder a map of AAGs.**
- **SD to show Elder all the basket locations to water, and give him the map.**

## Finance

- MM gave an overview of remaining budget for the year, which will be used to pay Elder's next bill.

## Other

- MW updated all on the BC urns. Waterers are organized. Post office urn may need replanting.
- The Berm: discussed the need for ongoing weeding and watering. Last year we spent a lot of money on Elder to weed and water. Discussed whether to replant with shrubs and larger things, so less weeding is required; alternatively, should we continue following the current plan. **All to discuss further at the next meeting. In the meantime, SS to send out email requesting help with another weeding day at the berm.**
- Replacement of BC sign on Post office planter: **SH is looking into the best option to attach to the concrete pot.**
- Repair the stone wall at Tilley Pond Girl Scout garden. **MW getting an estimate; will see if the town will pay for it. Expects this will be completed within 6 months.**
- Tree donation: NM confirmed there is no longer a tree donation.

- Trash clean-up at exits off 95. Discussed whether we should spend money to pay Elder to clean these areas, since they are so visible to all. **To discuss at next month's meeting. MM to bring total funds available for the discussion.**
- Change of dates of June/July meetings. All agreed to move these two meetings from the previously scheduled Mondays to new dates of Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, both at 8:30am. **HP to update town hall.**

Next Meeting: 8:30am on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall Room B-3