

Beautification Commission (BC)

Meeting Minutes

March 11th, 2012

9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Cindy Ryan, Heather Pommernelle, Marcia Meinerth, David May, John Schlachtenhaufen, Marianne Wadleigh, Sig Buchmayr, Sandy Filmer, Sabina Harris.

Absent: Pam Elliot, Sandy Drimal.

Action items are noted in red.

New Member update

- Marianne Wadleigh was introduced, our newest board member.
- SS mentioned that the Republican Town Committee is advertising for volunteers, one of which is for our remaining opening.

Financial

- MM confirmed the \$165 check from Whole Foods is on the way! Should be received within 2 weeks.
- All reviewed the summary of items to use remaining budget.
- **Marcia will email copies updated forms** - request for disbursement check, and submittal of checks for deposit - **to members**, so all can submit receipts at the next meetings.
- We have not yet received our budget for 2013-14.

Contract for Elder to include:

- Hanging baskets: SS questioned if the number of baskets was in fact 78 since she needs this info to put into Elder contract. **SD to confirm number**. Fertilizing and watering hanging baskets to begin May 20th. Watering 4 times a week, fertilizing (frequency based on Bed & Borders recommendations). MW suggested adding long-lasting fertilizer (Osmocote), which lasts 6 months, to baskets, rather than frequently using liquid fertilizer. CR suggested adding gel capsules to help retain water.
- To spray with pesticide 2 times a year. Prune baskets 2 times per season; group suggested Elder prune as needed when he takes them down to water them.
- CR/HP have set the budget to cover clean-up (first now), followed by every other week starting in late May. He's to prune (while he's there to water) as needed. **CR and HP to advise SS with exact number and placement of AAGs that need to be tended by Elder this season**. SS will include this in Elders contract and mark them on the AAG map, to be given to Elder.
- JS asked that work on cemeteries remain as adhoc, to be used just when clean-up is required.

Adopt-A-Gardens

- Varina's garden: Complete Designs would like to sponsor ongoing maintenance and planting of the garden. She is always too expensive for us, but we would cap. PH/CR/HP to further discuss. Letter to thank sponsors to be sent once ongoing costs are confirmed.
- Paw Prints garden: SS provided map outlining the space, and clarified the garden size is 8'x14'. **CR/HP will put together design by next meeting**. It could possibly mimic a new design coming for Amy's Smile's garden, if ready in time. JS suggested that something be planted just behind both signs on this island. SS mentioned there are many stumps to be removed; the soil is apparently good.
- Sign purchases: CR is in the process of ordering signs for Paw Prints, Rowayton Seafood, Amy's Smile, and Varina's Garden.
- SS mentioned the Board of Realtors were interested in giving money towards a project in town, so SS suggested several options. They're decided to fund a bench at Weed Beach.

Hanging baskets

- SS mentioned the 78 baskets have been ordered; they'll be delivered to Goodwives Shopping Center, for BC members and DPW's team to hang up.

Berm

- JS reconfirmed Penny Glassmeyer will continue sponsorship of the water for the berm.
- Many mentioned there is a lot of debris to clean-up. **SG/SH will organize a work party** of BC members to take this to the dump.
- For the stream area, DM would like to group the boulders (so they aren't in the way of mowers), and plant a juniper. **SS to contact George for help.**
- Weeping Maple transplant will be actioned in May.

Other

- Spring clean-up will be Saturday, April 27th. 8:00am meet time behind Upper Crust Bagels for coffee and bagels, and to collect bags. SS contacted 25 groups to participate in the clean-up. Senior Men's Association, Indian Princesses, Holmes School, Green Team, Pear Tree Point Road residents (clean-up at low tide), Pear Tree Point School, Selleck's Woods, and St. Luke's students have confirmed so far. Katie Keith will also organize a group of neighbors to clean up trash on Tokeneke road. SS awaiting responses from a Girl Scout Troup, DHS groups, and the ABC group. **SH to help confirm DHS groups. MM to contact ABC students to see if they can help.**
- SS investigated getting a Darien dump sticker for Elder, for his work for us. The town refused, insisting that we (a town organization) must pay for disposal of landscaping waste in the town dump. To avoid this cost, we will continue to leave rubbish for DPW to pick up.
- Tokeneke Road project. **SS/SB/SH will organize a work day to cut logs, pick up branches, etc.** prior to the spring clean-up by Katie's group.
- Ongoing issue: exit 13 island mowing. DPW will not mow this area as it is state property. **SS to speak to Jayme Stephenson** to let her know that, if the town wants the island to look good, we'll need to adopt it from the state and have DPW mow regularly.

Next Meeting April 8th, 9am Town Hall Room B-3