

Beautification Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2013
9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Sandy Drimal, Heather Pommernelle, John Schlachtenhaufen, Sabina Harris, Marcia Meinerth, Sandy Filmer, Bob Wolkwitz, Marianne Wadleigh, Sig Buchmayr, Nina Miller

Absent: Cara Gates, Cindy Ryan

Action items are noted in red.

Financials

- Budget to date discussed. Watering costs were very high this year.
- Paw Prints, Gardeners Center, and Rowayton Garden have not yet paid for their AAGs.

AAGs

- Watering spend was double what was forecasted this year.
- Work done recently discussed. Amy's Smile: garden plants adjusted. May have another Crab Apple from the Tree Conservancy, if one's left over. Paw Prints: removed dead mums, removed trash, Iris' & Allium bulbs planted; would like to plant further in the spring. Darien Train Station: hosta added, plants moved. SS to cut down plants further to make sure there's space.
- To be done: spread mulch at Amy's Smile. Rowayton Seafood AAG: **SB plans to tidy it up.** Spring pruning of roses suggested.
- SD mentioned Garden Club would like to have a new AAG location, where they'd have a new design location. SD to discuss with them further.
- Marian Castel (resident) commented that the garden on the left side of the road as go to Rowayton, before the bridge, across from Rowayton Seafood's garden. **All asked to look at the area, and discuss ideas later.**

Donated Plants

- Iris and Hosta all planted (above).
- From John's daughter: pink knockout roses, white rose of Sharon. Need to decide where they go.
- Frank from Valley View has a lot of plants to donate. He'll drop to the DCA; **CR will organize.**

Berm

- SB and NM spread all the chips.
- All agreed to stop watering for the year.

Miscellaneous

- Update on spreading mulch at the Post Office. **MW/JS will finish soon.**
- Pots. **MW to add boughs to the Post Office and Town Hall pots.**

- Tegu gardens update. MW created list of “to do” items, to include suggested purchases. **MW/SS to meet with Will to confirm.** Ongoing maintenance will be handled by the company, not BC. SB mentioned that brush in the same area needs to be removed. We can set an action point for this, once the overall job’s approved and moving forward.
- Hanging baskets. **SD/SH/MW to look at strategic placement of baskets for next year.**
- Pots in Noroton Heights. SD mentioned it was very difficult to get shops to water them. MW suggested getting water from the businesses instead of bringing the water in a large container by car.
- DPW winter work project requests:
 - Cut reeds at berm, move boulders
 - Move boulders at Exit 11
 - Painting of lamp posts?
 - SD commented on how bad the leaves are in front of businesses. After rains especially it’s quite slippery and dangerous - a town liability. A leaf/street cleaner truck would help. **SS to mention to George.**
- New member status: BW and NM were both contacted by Town Hall, and meetings set for interview. JS will be resigning at the end of the year. MM is looking to move from her finance position.
- SS met with the BOS for the annual commission review meeting. Mentioned that if we had more funding, we’d like to look at planting the far let of the berm. Also mentioned the slope along Heights Road in Noroton Heights, and yellow curbs in the town should be repainted. Mentioned that our board spent 832 hours - 64 hours per year per board member - on BC projects. Meeting went well, though received little feedback on the particular points. **SS to send out the submitted annual report to the board.**
- JS mentioned that Jonas Schmidt (an eagle scout), and Noroton Presbyterian Church have put a lot of time and work to clean up Weed Cemetery on Hollow Tree Pond, to include \$3,000 removing dead trees (they’ll accept targeted donations). **HP to contact Darien Times to see if they want to put an article in on it, to interview JS.**
- **HP to send out list of contact details for board members for all to add/update.** The list is used only within the group.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - All agreed a December 2013 meeting is not required.
 - **HP to send out the 2014 meeting schedule.** Meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month, excluding August and December; if it falls on a holiday, the meeting would be the following Monday.
 - Discussed if needed both a January and February meeting. At the January meeting, we’ll discuss if a February meeting is necessary.

Next Meeting Monday, January 13th at 9am, Town Hall Room B-3