

## Beautification Commission (BC)

Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2012

Town Hall Room B-3

**Present:** Suzanne Schutte, Heather Pommernelle, Sig Buchmayr, John Schlachtenhaufen, Pam Elliot, Cindy Ryan, Phyllis Hawkins

**Absent:** Sandy Filmer, Sandy Drimal, Bob Baker, David May, Sabina Harris, Marcia Meinerth

Action items are noted in red.

### Financial

- The fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, all receipts must be in by then.
- SS created a contract for Elder Santiago's services, covering watering, fertilizing and hourly rate.
- Another \$100 has been received from the Berma Castle estate.
- The Whole Foods 'Every Little Change Helps' program has brought in nearly \$150. **Phyllis will provide BC tax ID number to receive the funds.**

### Hanging Baskets

- 66 baskets were hung by BC members with great assistance from DPW. Photo was in Patch.
- Elder will fertilize baskets following Bed & Borders' suggestions.
- Complete Designs will water until end June; Elder takes over from July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Adopt-A-Gardens (AAGs)

- Most AAGs are tidy; Jim McNaughton's was recently nicely cleaned up. Some could use color; **CR/HP to either plant annuals or adjust plant compositions at the Garden Club of Darien, Noroton Ave/Ledge Road, and CVS beds.** Urnst & Biddle will add some height to the garden at the Goodwives entrance.
- After no response from Stop & Shop, **CR will remove their sign from the garden on Heights road.**
- Corner Tilley Pond/Darien Train Station has not been confirmed as a new AAG. Open to be adopted.
- **SS to follow up with MM on whether AAG invoices have been sent.**

### Other Clean-up locations

- JS met with Jim Barnes from DOT, drove around town, and gained permission for the Tree Conservancy of Darien (TCD) to plant as many as 50 trees.
  - Ok for BC to remove vines off the rocks at Exit 12, and TCD can put 1 tree at Exit 12 Southbound.
  - Several trees can be planted on the slope of Exit 11 Southbound.
  - The state will remove the Euonymus and one struggling tree on the ramp of Exit 11 Northbound.
  - All work must be pre-approved; **SS to complete forms for these requests. SS will also send letters to Zotos and Coangelo, asking for their assistance funding changes in the area.** Targeted timing for these clean-ups and plantings would be in the fall.
- Girl Scout troop 50815 planted beds in front of the Darien Train Station, NY side. They will maintain it through the summer; in the fall we hope to sell it as an AAG, possibly to the RTC who have wanted a garden. An article and photos of the group were on Patch.
- Noroton Heights train station garden. This will remain a DPW project, not become an AAG.
- Establishing a town clean-up priority list: **SS will discuss with Jamie Stevenson** once we have official DOT approvals in place.
- DPW is now very busy for the summer, will have little time to help with projects until fall. A limited list of weed pile pick-up and mulch deliveries will be requested.
- Town Hall landscaping needs weeding. SS to ask Dom's Landscaping for help; they kindly donated a day of clean-up last year.

### The Berm Project

- SS purchased a 320 gallon watering tank, now town property. Weed Beach project will also be using it.
- SF, HP, BB, SB, SS have all taken turns watering; **SS will send a note for coverage for the rest of the summer.** Waterers were requested to weed and top up tree gator bags during their assigned week, as well as water the new plantings.
- JS organized the DPW to plant 4 trees at the berm; trees sponsored by the TCD.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of plants are expected in w/o 6/25; weeding of the site is required first. **SS to sent notes to organize weeding and subsequent planting times, as well as a clean-up of the right side of the berm.**
- HP's created a press release on the project; pending DPW names for photos then **HP will submit to the**

papers and online news sites.

#### Illegal Lawn Signs

- BB had circulated a letter he's written to the First Selectman addressing the signs around town; comments requested. It was agreed that it would be a stronger letter once the RTC and DTC agree to his proposal. HP will forward BB suggestions for wording changes.

#### Other

- David Fletcher's donating a weeping red maple, if we can move it. It's on private property, so DPW would not be able to dig it up, but they could move and plant it (staying on town property). JS working with Elder to dig it up, funded by BC. SS will get DM's advice on placement; could potentially be at the berm.
- The BC letter to the editor thanking Castle memorial donors was printed in the Darien Times.
- SS passed around the recently released town annual report; the BC report is at the front. She will ask for content and photos in October when she writes this year's report.

Next Meeting July 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am Town Hall Room B-3 (There will be no August meeting)