

Darien Beautification Commission, Minutes 9AM, May 10, 2010

Attendance: John Schlachtenhaufen, Sandy Drimal, Jonathan Olmsted, Chris Merritt, Suzanne Schutte, Pam Elliott, Cindy Ryan, Sandy Filmer, Bob Baker, Susan Bhirud, Sabina Harris, First Selectman Dave Campbell (attended the final 15 of meeting)

Summary of April 24, Town Clean Up: Suzanne S, reported 23 groups (over 200 people) cleaned up 21 areas in Town.

New person to consider for the BC is Colleen Lynch. She organized a group to clean Tokeneke area. She has also given a list of areas that need attention to Suzanne. Area of contention is on Mechanic Street near railroad tracks constantly has a litter problem. Discussion spoke to DPW for trash can placement told not in budget, spoke to Rail supervisor little results. Still trying to find solution.

Noroton Hghts Garden: Suzanne S and Sabina report clean up and planting went well. Room available for later plantings. Need wood chips placed and also at Hindley.

Berm/DPW update: Suzanne informed by G Swift that DPW can place wood chips and tree stump removal but may still need more time because of storm damage clean up. Elder retreated some areas for weeds and remove all black plastic from Berm area. Wants to have all planted by Memorial Day weekend.

Final decision to plant pachysandra – 90 flats. 24 shrubs, 4 maple trees (trees will be planted in the fall) All plants to be delivered to Suzanne's house for safe keeping till ready to plant at Berm. Columbine and lupine seeds verses plants discussed. Decision made to purchase full grown plants. Possibly use some flowers from Pat Copeland garden. Need to get design plan of Berm from Lesley for planting placement.

Work Schedule/update of Compete Design: Sandy D & Sandy F reported they have spoken to Susan Haines regarding expenses and turning in receipts for up coming projects. Note - everyone needs to turn in receipts by med June at the latest to meet end of fiscal year.

Area of Exit 13 garden still concerns because of the Highway crews still working in the area. Suggestion made to place boulders for border of the garden area. Need to contact George Swift to see if this is possible. Sandy D reported the cost of Exit 13 sign replacement \$850 or \$950 or \$1050 for reflective lettering. Debate of wood verses metal posts. Discussion of "who" should pay the sign, Town or BC. No answer from BOS.

Other business, 7 plaques for the large planters have been order. Sabina H volunteered to put them on the planters.

Hanging Baskets: Chris M reported cost will be \$26/basket – 140 total this year and also cost of \$40/planter (7 total). Chris will ask Susan Haines and her crew to help with the hanging of the baskets on Monday May 24 along with the BC members. Find the chains for the baskets.

Signage issues: Bob Baker has had on going communications with J. Ginsberg and BOS regarding regulations and reinforcement of signs improperly placed throughout town. Bob will meet with the new Head of the Realtors Board (Lynn Julian) in 2 weeks. John suggests BC get official OK from BOS, J Ginsberg, and/or the police to remove illegal signs. Also would like to have a representative from the Architectural Review Board attend our meetings. Sandy suggested finding an area for a Town message Board. Similar to New Canaan by their High School. Maybe by the railroad bridge. Open discussion, to be continued.

Allen O'Neill update: Pat Copeland (former landscape arch.) will donate all her plantings to BC. We dug up hundreds of daffodils. She will call us as other plants bloom and she will allow us to take them. On going discussion of where to plant everything. Suggested to send her a formal letter recognizing her for her amazing donation.

Mission Statement: suggestions taken on revision, on going.

First Selectman, Dave Campbell: Questions asked of him. Update our member term situation. Bob B approved. Still waiting to hear about Sabina Harris and Lesley Kroll. Explained about donation from Pat Copeland. Question answered regarding Garden signs. Safety issues posts need to be "break away" incase a vehicle hits it. No metal posts. Signage: Mr. Campbell will be more involved to help find resolution to this on going situation.

Open Forum: John S suggest Tree Conservancy first project to work with Whole Foods and plant some trees for Ext 11. Open debate on Ledge Rd Garden Spot. Sandy F. asked if BC would consider be part of a web page. Suzanne suggested that Sandy F. see New Canaan Garden Club website for ideas on how it could look. Linda Goodyear invites all to march in Memorial Day Parade. Next meeting to concentrate on signage issues. (June 14,2010) Meeting adjourned 11:20AM. Minutes submitted by Sabina Harris