

Darien Beautification Commission Minutes

Date: Monday, 9th November 2009

Time & Place: 9:00 am Town Hall Room B3

Members Present: Suzanne Schutte (Chair), Bob Baker, Sandy Drimal, Pam Elliott, Sandy Filmer, Marcia Meinerth, Chris Merritt, Cindy Ryan.

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am.
Agendas were distributed.

The Issue of 'The Right of Way'

Suzanne reminded the members that permits are required for any beautification work projects being done on public areas. She noted that this is not a complicated process, but rather serves as a way to keep the DPW informed of any landscaping work being commissioned by the BC.

The guidelines for Plantings and Structure's in the Town Right of Way, prepared by Robert Steeger, Director of Public Works was distributed to all members present.

It was also noted that Tracy May is the contact person for the State Department of Transportation (1-203-389-3005). Sandy Drimal has the responsibility of coordinating the planting for the island(s) at exit 13. She will meet with Susan Haynes of Complete Designs to discuss the requirement of drawings and species selection to be submitted to the necessary powers that be (state/town) for approval.

If trees are to be included in the plans, Tony Taccone of Darien DPW (656-7696) is the contact person. Part of Tony's responsibility to the DPW is to oversee the town's tree replacement program.

Treasurer's Report

Annual Budget for 2009/10 - \$33,000

Paid to Date \$18,597.51

Balance \$14,402.49

Anticipated Bills for Complete Designs & Elder Santiago
 \$5,000 est.

Special Account Balance - \$12,893.66

It was determined that we are in a good financial position to proceed with plans for cleaning and landscaping the berm at the train station.

Briefly, the budget for 2010/11 would look as follows:

\$6,800	Hanging Baskets
\$24,000	Vendors (Complete Designs / Santiago)
\$2,000	Additional Clean-up, planting, labor
<u>\$3,000</u>	Plantings/urns
\$35,800	Est.

The funds to do the berm would come out of the Special Projects account, Elder Santiago has already been commissioned to proceed to clean-up. This project is presently estimated to cost between \$7,000 and \$9,000. Suzanne Schutte is coordinating this effort.

Hanging Baskets

Chris Merritt will meet with Penny Glassmeyer concerning the request for baskets and maintenance at Grove Plaza.

Adopt-A-Garden

The garden isle at exit 11 has been dug out due to construction for Whole Foods. The sponsors of this isle (Park or Fosters?) will replant upon completion of construction.

Signs

Bob Baker continues to do due diligence in trying to get the town government to enforce signs being placed on public property. Bob is scheduled to meet with the new selectman, Dave Campbell.

Bulb Planting

10,000 bulbs-! Need we say more? Suzanne, thanks for all the carting, sorting, planting. And thanks too to John, Bob, Cindy, Pam, Susan, for helping to get all those bulbs planted!

Hindley School

The areas where the bulbs were planted needs mulch. Santiago may be contracted to do this.

Noroton Heights

Cindy Ryan is working on what is needed for the planting areas, clean-up, plantings, labor, etc.

Urns

To be discussed at a future meeting. Next meeting is planned for December 14th until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Meinerth - Interim Secretary