

**Beautification Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Cindy Ryan, Sig Buchmayr, Nina Miller, Sabina Harris, Marcia Meinerth, Marianne Wadleigh, Sandy Filmer, Heather Pommernelle  
Absent: Cara Gates, Sandy Drimmel, Bob Wolkwitz

Action items are noted in red.

#### Financials

- Budget update: MM has no new news from the town.
- Status of AAG sponsors payments: Paw Prints does want it; **MM working to collect the funds**. Rowayton Seafood's Garden: **MM to double check it's paid**.
- The board agreed that going forward, new AAG sponsors need to pay before we spend any money on the garden.

#### Baskets

- SH updated all that she and SD met with several commercial property owners this year, with great success. 2014 total basket order now at 150+ baskets, which includes some we will place on Post Road near the churches in Noroton Heights; also a number of baskets will be paid for and hung in parking areas by Dolcetti's, Darien Rowayton Bank, and the library. These baskets are charged at cost. Additional baskets have been ordered for Tom Geary; these baskets will be charged at \$150/basket with BC managing care and watering. SD has placed the basket order.
- SH met with George to discuss possibly adjusting the height of town parking signs on flower basket poles. A state law prohibit movement of the signs, so this will no longer be pursued.

#### AAGs

- AAG spring clean-up. Agreed that BC members would clean the gardens, and Elder would be paid to mulch them.
- Sign at Gardener's Center may be broken? Once it's visible through the snow, **CR to check if it needs to be replaced**.
- Garden with Town of Darien sign (near Giovanni's): **CR to approach businesses in the area to sponsor it**.
- Change in locations for GCD: **CR to continue the discussion**.
- SG suggested something be done at a garden towards Good Wives River Road. **All to look at it and make suggestions next meeting**.

### Town-wide Clean-up April 26<sup>th</sup>

- In March **SS will send out an email requesting commitment from groups**. Atria may do the Town Hall pot again. MW's girl scout troop will help. Clean-up dates for groups can be outside of the April 26<sup>th</sup> date.
- Promotion: Chamber of Commerce will promote it.

### Donated Plants

- MW looked at plant donations from Valley View. They include Spirea and other large plants. In the spring they could likely be added to the berm, elsewhere
- SS asked all to plan to ask nurseries and gardener's centers for stock (bulbs & plants) they want to get rid of and donate in late fall.

### Other

- Garden on the left side of the road as go to Rowayton, before the bridge across from Rowayton Seafood's garden.
  - Move the monument? CR spoke to Marian Castell with the Historical Society. They don't appear to be interested in moving it.
  - SS spoke to Lisa Shannahan from the Rowayton Garden Club. She'll speak to their Civic Beautification committee, and let SS know if they'd like to participate.
- We have several member vacancies. SG approached Jack Haire; he may be available in the fall. **SG to speak to Annie Sullivan. SS to approach John Pederson. NM to approach Micheal Chiodo.**
- Discussed starting meeting at 8:30am instead of 9am to better accommodate those who work. **All to plan for 8:30am for the March meeting**, and see if that works well for all. If so, we may make this change permanent.
- Cut back grasses & reeds at berm; **SG & BW to do when clumps are accessible, and call if they need help.**
- MW purchased evergreen plants for the BC urns. **Will plant once it warms up.** The board agreed that, going forward, as we add more urns, BC sign to be affixed to the pot rather than placed in the container. If the sponsor pays for ongoing maintenance, their name will be included in the sign; otherwise it will not.
- BC response to Noroton resident's email, asking for baskets near Noroton Heights' churches and for us to address the garden near Giovanni's. SS updated her of the additional baskets, and our work to get a sponsor for the garden.

Next Meeting: date to be March 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am at Town Hall Room B-3