

Beautification Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
June 12th, 2014
8:30am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Bob Wolkwitz, Heather Pommernelle, Sig Buchmayr, Sabina Harris, Sandy Filmer, Marianne Wadleigh, Sandy Drimmel, Michael Chiodo, Nina Miller and Annie Sullivan (members at large)
Absent: Cindy Ryan, Marcia Meinerth, Cara Gately

Action items are noted in red.

Baskets update

- The baskets look great! May want to purchase more next year for Noroton Heights area.
- 2 baskets placed behind Brooks Brothers, for the landscapers to hang, disappeared. Next year, SD plans to have businesses that purchased baskets pick up their own at Goodwives, rather than us delivering to them (and possibly disappearing).

Donated plants

- From John's daughter: Knock-out roses and Maple trees were planted at the berm by SB and John Qua. Rose of Sharon was planted at Tegu garden by Tegu employees, SS & family and SB, with help with truck delivery by SH.

AAGs update

- SS mentioned that the Post Road Fire Station has asked for shrubs to be moved that are close to the fire hydrant. **SS to mention to CR for action.**
- Some weeding is required in the Democratic garden. **SH to handle.**

New Gardens:

- SS update on the Tegu garden: 7 Tegu employees, SS & family, SH weeded and planted the area. Many from nearby businesses pitched in, and many people said "thank you" as they drove by. Tegu will water twice a week, using water offered by the manager of Meatballs. Need one more large shrub (Rose of Sharon possibly?). **CR discussing with Tegu, whether they want a sign or not.**
- Darien Train Station garden: several Brownies and their mothers, led by Rosemary Jordan, weeded and planted many new plants. Needs one more plant; maybe a hydrangea from near the fire station? The Brownies will water the plants on a weekly basis.
- Pear Tree Point School students, led by Megan Collins and Jennifer, planted at town hall last week, with SS, NM, MC, HP.

Giovanni's

- P&Z has ongoing issues with this project: the sign is still too tall; they've

planted a garden of questionable colors and annuals (was to have been perennials only, whites/purples/pinks/blues only, and it was to be shown to us first for ok). At P&Z's request, SS prepared a document covering the above issues. Giovanni's has now been told that they need to fix the sign before anything further will be approved. **SS & CR will meet with them today.**

- All plants in the Town of Darien bed near Giovanni's have been ripped out; **SH looking into who may have done this.**
- Lions Club and Rotary signs to be moved shortly north of the nearby AAG garden, similar to other group signs as we enter the town.
- Cleaning of the Welcome to Darien sign, Stamford sign: **SH/NM/SB to clean with spray provided by DPW.**

Berm update and plan review

ALL

- Currently the berm looks weeded; some chips still need to be spread. There are clear large sections that need to be replanted/filled. The group agreed to continue with the original design from Dave, but need to do something to fill the empty sections. **SS will organize a time to meet and plan for the berm.**
- Discussed a spray from John Sweeney - one that the state uses - that coats an area with fescue grass seeds. Approximately \$800 for 4,000 square feet.

Finance update

- All bills have been paid, and the 2013-2014 budget was all spent. Bed & Borders bill for the baskets will be paid from the 2014-2015 budget.
- MM has moved to Vermont; SS is speaking to John Peterson, about being the new treasurer (he's been a treasurer with previous groups).

Other:

- Discussed whether we can plant more native plants; Milkweed in particular. **NM to discuss with Mike Schoebel.**
- Darien Post Office: **MW will plant the urn soon.** SS, David Genovese and the new post master met to discuss improvements to curb appeal.
- Estimate pending from the park's department to fix the wall at the Girl Scout garden at Tilley Pond. **SH following up.** The Girl Scouts plan to fundraise to help pay for the project.
- Cemeteries: BW will now take care of these for the town. BW to let us know if there's a need for clean-up.

Next Meeting: 8:30am on Thursday, July 10th, Town Hall Room B-3