

Beautification Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 10th, 2014
8:30am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Bob Wolkwitz, Heather Pommernelle, Sig Buchmayr, Sandy Filmer, Marianne Wadleigh, Sandy Drimmel, Michael Chiodo, and Nina Miller (member at large)

Absent: Cindy Ryan, Sabina Harris, Annie Sullivan, Marcia Meinerth, Cara Gately

Action items are noted in red.

Baskets update

- The town baskets look great! Elder's doing a great job taking care of them. Using Jack's Petunia fertilizer from Gardener's Center, and fertilizing weekly. Library and Police Station baskets are not looking great, though SD did give them specific instructions on how best to care for them.
- At the September meeting, all should plan to discuss where to place additional baskets in town, to possibly include Tilley Pond.

AAGs update

- MC updates: Paw Prints garden was clean-up, though soil is very hard. Will look to add Coreopsis and mulch. Amy's Smile and Darien Fire Department beds were cleaned.
- Discussed how to keep abreast of the status of all AAGs. MC to discuss with SH and CR, and look to set up regular checks of the beds. They can then ask BC members for help with weeding, etc.
- Discussion of the Brooks Brothers adoption of Darien train station garden has been postponed to the September meeting when SH or CR can offer an update.

Other Gardens:

- Tegu Garden: SG/SS mentioned the Tegu employees added more plants, and have been watering regularly. SH donated a sprinkler that they are now using during slow hours. CR offered them a BC sign; they are thinking about it. Bill at Darien News has also been cutting back vines in this area.

Giovanni's

- SS updated that the garden looks clean and tidy, but still has mainly annuals and is not fully planted. We will not buy the BC sign for now, since it does not fit. Will discuss again in the fall and see if we should offer advise and help making it look better.
- Lions Club and Rotary signs: working to move them. SG offered to help.

- Town of Darien sign near Giovanni's: SS mentioned that the DPW has given us cleaner, which will not fix the sign but can help it look better. Discussed whether to use BC funds to replace the sign.

Berm update and plan review

ALL

- SS offered a watering situation update; we can again use the orangey/pink hose and blue spigot at the same residence.
- Discussed different options in how to improve the garden. Agreed:
 - SB to spread existing woodchip. When more chips are required, SS to ask DPW to drop more chips.
 - SS to hire Elder and crew to weed.
 - DPW will cut back some cattails to help improve water flow in the stream.
 - SS to approach David Genovese for possible support on this project.

Finance update

- MM would like to continue as Treasurer and finish her term in November. SS has approached John Peterson to be her replacement, and is awaiting his response.

Other:

- Repair of Girl Scout garden wall at Tilley Pond: MW is obtaining bids; the Girl Scouts plan to fundraise to pay for it. The repair will hopefully happen in the fall.
- SS & David Genovese are discussing maintenance of the grass around the Exit 11 garden.
- Cemeteries: BW tracked down all the Darien cemeteries and distributed a very comprehensive status update to the group. In the fall, BW to schedule a clean-up day for members to help clean up the worst.
- Merchants on Tokeneke Road - the owner of Bling, John from the Dock Shop, and John from Sono Bakery - would like to beautify the Tokeneke Road area near Post Road with baskets. Currently there aren't any lampposts from which to hang the baskets. Discussed various alternatives: add urns of the same flowers; adopt the nearby garden corner Tokeneke and Old Kings Highway; add wrought iron supports to hang baskets directly off of the buildings. SS will meet with the group and update all next meeting.
- SS received an email from Laurie McGrath/Linda Goodyear. The Darien Times will run "The Green Minute" section in the papers throughout the summer. Submissions to be 150 words, and we will be asked to contribute on a couple of dates.

Next Meeting: 8:30am on Monday, September 8th, Town Hall Room B-3