

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

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Sandy Drimmel, Heather Pommernelle, Sabina Harris, Marcia Meinerth, Nina Miller (member at large), Sig Buchmayr, Michael Chiodo, Marianne Wadleigh

Absent: Bob Wolkwitz, Sandy Filmer, Cindy Ryan, Cara Gately

Action items are noted in red.

#### Finance update

- MM went through expenses vs budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year, to help members understand dollars spent on each project. Also suggested how remaining 2014-2015 budget should be allocated and spent on each project.
- For next meeting, MM/MC to break down how much time Elder spent on each AAG garden, incorporate hours spent by BC members, to show resources spent on the gardens to the group at the next meeting. SH asked that mulch be included in the expenses.
- New budget requests discussion postponed to next meeting (ideas submitted to date: new Welcome to Darien sign, additional baskets on Post Road, baskets in Tilley Pond, other ideas?)
- Handing over books to next treasurer

#### Resignations/New Members

SS

- Resignations: Marcia (trying to extend departure to early Spring), Annie, Heather
- Replacements: Meredith Schoff. Need new Treasurer and Secretary.
- SS to ask Republicans & Democrats to place ads in paper, with specific requests for financial and marketing/PR skills. MM to speak directly to Randy Kline to reiterate the request.
- MM to some PTAs asking for members.

#### Donated plants

- Green Minute article in the Darien Times was helpful - several donations! Reviewed list of items. Plan to visit each garden to see the condition of the plants, decide if we want them, and schedule time later in the fall to dig them out.
- Within the next week, SS, NM, MC, SH, MW to visit agreed-upon gardens and evaluate plants.
- SS to submit Green Minute article in October asking for volunteers to help weed

and plant, and suggest they could be possible members.

#### The Berm

- SS updated all on the condition of the berm, highlighting that there are 7 obvious bald areas. Suggested that any donations that can be planted there should be, and possibly spend a little on grasses that have worked previously, but otherwise suggests we don't spend more money on plants at this location.
- Hose from the nearby development is broken again. **MM will look into the status.**

#### Cemetery update

BW

- We've received complaints from a resident about a cemetery near the Stamford/Darien border. She asked for us to clear dead wood, take down further dead wood, and cut grasses. BW to have contacted the resident. SS to follow up with him on the discussion. but also mention in the annual report that we are unable to care for cemeteries going forward.

#### AAGs

CR, MC, SH

- Geigers contacted the Selectman's office, asking to take care of a section of the Heights Road. SH sent them our BC suggestions for planting.
- Unlikely that Brooks Brothers still wants to adopt a garden since AS has left. The new manager has the information in case they do decide to pursue it.
- Group discussed finding sponsors for the Tegu garden, Darien Train station, and garden near CVS.

#### Hanging Baskets update

SD

- Ruth Ann Ramsey questioned why they didn't have hanging baskets in front of the seafood store (The store manager complained to her). Baskets were hung evenly down the street, on every other pole. No action.
- Beds and Borders will increase the delivery charge for next year, from \$100 to \$200.
- Agreed to leave the baskets up through September, unless they start to look terrible, or we have a hurricane.

#### Tokeneke Road Merchant update

- SS has spoken to several of the merchants on the corner of Tokeneke Road and Post Road. Lots of interest: some want planters; some want brackets. **SS to put together a flyer of what a basket (from us) would cost and include (\$35 each, or \$150 each if we water).**

#### Other business

- MW mentioned that landscape designer Suzanne Debow is creating a plan for the

Girl Scout garden.

- SS mentioned that David Genovese is working on the Exit 11S grass on the island; will reseed in the fall.
- SS mentioned that Tegu Gardens will plant fescue grass in the fall.
- Annual report is due Friday, 10/31. SS will ask for blurbs on different areas, and photos.
- SS will be out of town for the Green Team's meeting at the Darien Nature Center on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. **NM will go in SS's place.**
- Pots in Noroton Heights: MW has been adding plants as needed. Post office pot looks good, they're doing a good job watering.

Next Meeting: 8:30am on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall Room B-3