

Beautification Commission (BC)

Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2012 ~ 9:00 am

Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Heather Pommernelle, Phyllis Hawkins, John Schlachtenhaufen, Cindy Ryan, Marcia Meinerth, Pam Elliot, Bob Baker, Sandy Drimal, Sandy Filmer, Sabina Harris

Absent: David May

Action items are noted in red.

Previous meeting follow-up

- Whole Foods 'Small Change Adds Up' program has started, will run until April. Customers need to request that their \$0.10 per bag goes to the Beautification Commission.
- Letter to the editor thanking the Gardener's Center was published in the Darien Times.
- Town website text updated.

Financial

- 2012-2013 budget pending approval. Spent to date 35.45% of 2011-2012 budget.
- Basket/watering budget expected to be spent 32% on island care, and 68% watering baskets. **MM to speak to Complete Designs to confirm.**
- Discussed whether BC members should fundraise for our landscaping projects. This would require a 501(c)3, though we could potentially fundraise in conjunction with another 501(c)3.

Volunteers Available

- Eagle Scout projects require 100 hours. Something to do with the berm?
- First Congregational Church has 12 8th graders with supervision.
- Girl Scout troop (7th & 8th grade girls). Asked to plant bushes for birds. CR suggested a bed on the side of the Darien Train station.
- Oxridge 1st graders looking for a project around 4/10. Possibly Tilly Pond?
- First Selectman requested BC look at cleaning up/improving exit 12. Sig offered to lead a project covering exit 12 to Tokeneke school. If kids are involved, police can be called to assist with traffic. Lights on the tree at Farm Road / Locust Hill / Tokeneke intersection also need fixing. JS mentioned the Tree Conservancy of Darien will likely plant trees in this area as well.

Spring Clean-Up, Saturday April 28th

- SS gaining permits from P&R.
- Pear Tree Point School will clean up Pear Tree Point beach on 4/27
- Boy Scouts – SH following up with them.

Hanging Baskets, hanging date 5/24 (tbc)

- Baskets have been planted, petunias of 4 colors similar to the 2010 design. BC members could man lampposts to make sure they're hung carefully. **SS to ask DPW to hold 5/24 to help.**

Adopt-A-Gardens (AAGs)

- HP looking to recreate the brochure to update contents, needs photos of gardens. **SF to see if she can obtain past files.**
- N.H. Pots will stay where they are. **PH to ask Sanda's to water them all.**
- Exit 13 large garden. Possible AAG targets discussed. Have it designed? BC takes it on?
- Check from Kelly's received for 2011 AAG. CR comfortable there are no other AAG invoices outstanding.

The Berm Project

- Space for grasses. Weeburn possible. **BB to confirm with DM number of plants to be held over what time.**
- Plants on hold from Northcreek Nurseries; **MM raising PO.**
- Water source: little tea house has a faucet, **JS to see if we can use it.** Look at Melting Pot a 2nd alternative.
- Water pump for BC? Further investigation
- SS gained approval for us to use the stream for water.
- Clean-up of grasses now by DPW. **DM to meet with them soon.**
- Trees for the site (Amelanchier, Dogwood). JS - likely Tree Conservancy of Darien will plant them, would ask BC to help fill gator bags.

Illegal Lawn Signs

- SS/BB sent website wording suggestion to the First Selectman for comments. Pending response.
- BB preparing signage laws proposals, and meet with both party Chairman to discuss.
- Darien police staple signs – eg no parking – to trees. Is there a blank tree warden approval?

Other

- **SS to ask DPW if spare garbage cans are available**, to add in areas with regular trash problems (eg Post Road and Tokeneke parking).
- PH, DM being interviewed to confirm status of BC member. BC members have some insurance coverage. SS to ask Sig if he wants to be a formal BC member so he's covered as well.

Next meeting: March 12th, 9am. Room B-3, Town Hall.