

Beautification Commission (BC)

Meeting Minutes

July 9th, 2012

Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, Bob Baker, Sig Buchmayr, Marcia Meinerth, Heather Pommernelle, John Schlachtenhaufen, Phyllis Hawkins, Cindy Ryan

Absent: Sandy Drimal, Sandy Filmer, Sabina Harris, Pam Elliot, David May

Action items are noted in red.

Illegal Lawn Signs

- Some adjustments made to the Letter to First Selectman; **SS to send letter to all selectmen and Karl Kildroff.** Darien Times reporter Tom Michaels is interested in the issue. **BB to copy him on the letter,** and ask him not to use it until after Bob discusses it with the First Selectman.

Other Town projects

- David Fletcher's donated red maple will be transplanted to the berm in the fall. The plan is that Elder would dig it out; DPW could then help move & plant. **SS to contact George to see if they could bring the front loader to the pick-up area.**
- Forms required for BC projects on state property (below). If the town submits it, the fee may be waived.
 - Exit 12 clean-up at the side of the road: **SB & SS will work together on the form.**
 - Painting of bridge over I-95 at Noroton Avenue. Jim Barnes offered to provide name to handle painting; **JS will follow up.**
 - Exit 11 Northbound: DOT removed invasives, and now a large area of barren ground is open for planting. A landscape design will be required, which BC must provide; Tree Conservancy of Darien will provide 2-3 trees, which will help hide the freeway. **SS will ask for help from artistic BC members.** Gardener Center will be offered this space first, as it's closer to his nursery, in case he wants to switch locations; otherwise it will be offered to others. **SS will ask SD to speak to Keith.**
- Weeding of town hall – Dom's Landscaping is unable to clean this up. **SS to mention to the First Selectman's office, and mention that Elder is quite reasonably priced if they'd like to use him.**

The Berm Project

- Watering coverage to 8/27 is set: SB watered last week; **HP to water this week, SF/PH w/o 7/16, BB w/o 7/23, MM/PH w/o 7/30, SS w/o 8/6, 8/13 w/o 8/13, JS w/o 8/20.**
- Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susans) may need to be sprayed to protect them from rabbits.
- The faucet handle is leaking at Anna's patio. **Waterers should play with the handle when they turn it on so leakage is minimized. MM will ask her plumber for a quote to replace it. HP will mention to Anna.**
- 2nd batch of plants: some are being watered well at Weeburn Country Club, others at DM's house. DM would us to plant them now; he's concerned the plants will get pot bound if we don't plant them soon. **SS to confirm planting timing with DM.**
- Elder finished cleaning the right side of the berm.

Financial

- All bills are in for the 2011-12 fiscal year; all budgeted funds have been spent.
- **MM to submit a form to Whole Foods to obtain 'Small Change Project' funds.**
- Additional \$25 received from the Burma Castle estate.

Adopt-A-Gardens (AAGs)

- CR/HP could use another member to focus on selling the AAGs. PH offered, and suggested there would be individuals in town that may be interested. Need to promote! Discussed promotion to Chamber of Commerce, Tree Conservancy and BC together. **SS & HP to work out AAG material to use.** AAGs currently available for sponsors: Darien Train Station, exit 11 Northbound, exit 13, CVS.
- Status/clean-up of gardens: CR/HP
 - NH S&S – sign has been removed. As it doesn't look like a designed garden, we'll leave it wild for now and focus on more visible gardens.
 - Exit 13 – **MM asked Complete Designs to look at what they could do for us.** She'll let HP/CR know of any existing plants that won't be used, so they can be used elsewhere.
 - Good Food/Good Things, Pedal & Pump island – **CR/SB to tidy up.**
 - **HP to approach The Growing Concern about their 2 gardens in disrepair.**

- Pile of weeds at Exit 11; **SS will ask Elder to pick these up**, as DPW isn't able to help until fall.
- Ongoing watering of AAGs/instructions to Elder; he's watering on an as needed basis. Baskets look great!
- MM has sent out all AAG invoices; Garden Club of Darien has already paid.

Hanging Baskets

- Library baskets. They've purchased new baskets from Neilsen's and a large watering tank. **Next year SS & SD will speak to the library to better coordinate the look of the baskets with those of the town.**

Next Meeting Sept 10th, 9am Town Hall Room B-3 (There will be no August meeting)