

Subj: **Re: Minutes of Beautification Meeting, March 9, 2009**  
 Date: 3/20/2009  
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MINUTES BEAUTIFICATION MEETING

MARCH 9, 2009

RECEIVED  
 9:10 AM  
 MAY 23 2009  
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
 DARIEN CT.

Suzanne Schutte chaired the meeting and welcomed a new member to the commission, Karen Heghan.

Sandy Drimal then reported on a meeting she and Janet Sargent had with the Darien Times. They will be doing a half page colored feature article on the background and history of the Beautification Commission. Jon Olmsted will provide the pictures. Janet will speak with Evonne Klein about asking for or receiving contributions for Beautification.

Gerry McGrath reported that the budget is set this year at \$34,000. The question came up as to whether we could afford to put annuals for color in the islands. That would require extra watering. Sandy Drimal suggested putting four planters in Noroton Heights -- the area from Vavallas to O'Leary's Liquor Store. Again, need to check with Evonne Klein to get okay and then add to the watering schedule.

There was also a question about different merchants in town and who is responsible for keeping store fronts clean. Dunkin' Donuts is particularly messy. Perhaps need a trash can at the bus stops on either side of the street.

Suzanne reported on Darien Clean Up scheduled for April 25th. Over 100 Middlesex students with teachers and parents want to participate and make this an ongoing project. Instead of the 25th, they would do it during the week on Earth Day. They need to have a large, designated area -- perhaps the whole Noroton Heights shopping area and train station. Because of the numbers, might have to get a police car to direct traffic during this time.

Eighth grade students have formed a Green Team at Middlesex and want to raise money for a project. The idea came up that they might want to Adopt a Spot (the island at the entrance to the Noroton Station) with their own sign. They could also take care of the planters at Middlesex.

Twenty five cub scouts also are volunteering for clean up. They will do the Senior Center. The Pear Tree Point School will do Pear Tree Point Beach. Jon Olmsted, our resident photographer, will take publicity pictures of the different students doing their various clean ups.

Marcia then reported about the elementary schools. Ox Ridge has created a Beautification Committee. She is going to talk to Hindley PTA and all the elementary schools' PTA's about creating these committees.

Chris Merritt reported that hanging baskets have gone out for planting at a fee of \$100 for delivery. We are adding eight extra baskets to the four lampposts on the Post Road in front of the library. This brings our total this summer to 120 baskets. The baskets will be delivered back to Darien for hanging on the morning of Thursday, May 21st. Please email Chris if you can help hang the baskets on that day. ([cmerritt65@aol.com](mailto:cmerritt65@aol.com)). Chris agreed to be the liaison with Susan Haynes re watering this summer.

In lieu of meetings in April and May, it was agreed upon to do work days instead (Clean up and Hanging Baskets.)