

# **Darien Beautification Commission**

## **MINUTES of the MEETING**

**February 8th, 2023**  
**Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road**  
**Room 119, 9:00am**

**Attendance, In Person:** Elizabeth Hall, Alicia Peperone, Sarah Schwarz, Juliet Cain, Jackie Stoddard McKee. **By Phone:** Amanda Segura, Tracey Whitehead, Colleen Kalvaitis.

- 1. Welcome and Establishment of a Quorum and Approval of Minutes:**  
Chairperson Juliet Cain welcomed everyone. Minutes of the last meeting on December 14th were approved as presented.
- 2. Presentation by Pyoor, Greenwich, an all-electric and robotic green lawn and landscaping company.** Thomas Hall and Eric Horn (Founder) presented Greenow which is a landscaping company that is an emissions-free, battery-only subscription-service landscaping company. They also offer all lawn and yard maintenance, flowerbed and plantings with zero emissions which is a much quieter and cleaner service than gas-powered alternatives. They are growing rapidly with their main issue being capacity (staffing) and a long new customer waiting list which they plan to address with new staffing. After their presentation, Juliet was going to forward the recording of the presentation to Park and Rec Dept.
- 3. Status of the Vacancies on Beautification Commission.** Juliet Cain, Chair, will be resigning from her role on the Commission effective February 28th, 2023. Elizabeth Hall, as Vice Chair, will be running meetings until a new Chairperson is voted on. That leaves the Commission with 2 vacancies. There were no updates on the other open position.

4. **Update on Adopt-a-Garden Relaunch:** Alicia Pepperone distributed a copy of an outline that she put together describing the update on the AAG committee meetings. The AAG committee has decided that it is better to revamp the project and have one landscaper company oversee all 17 gardens. The AAG committee has identified a multi-phased approach.
  - (a) Phase 1 is to prepare the outreach to Landscapers, ideally a company with ties to Darien/Fairfield county
  - (b) a look or cohesive color theme
  - (c) AAG is generating a list of companies to reach out to
  - (d) Juliet asked if there could be parameters for using organic materials & practices
  - (e) Sarah is working on building out detail program information in a brochure format
  - (f) Alicia is creating a garden location and info list to present to the landscapers and sponsors
  - (g) There was discussion about the contract and how to word that. The committee will reach out to Linda O’Leary or Kate Buch
  - (h) There was discussion about insurance and 1099 needs for the landscaper
  - (i) Phase 2 will be to prepare outreach to current and prospective sponsors. It was suggested that the Chamber of Commerce would be a great place to start. There was discussion of how to handle current sponsors who are landscapers
  - (j) Jackie and Colleen are working on signage for the AAG gardens
  - (k) In closing, Juliet suggested that the committee take time and do this project properly even if initial date targets are not met, it’s worth doing it right.
5. **Budget:** Tracey will send out a revised budget
6. **Discuss the Beach Bucket Foundation, plastic buckets at stations at each beach to help with trash pick-up at our Beaches.** Sarah shared that when she was in Florida she saw wooden structures at beach entrances that

contained buckets for anyone to collect rubbish off the beach. She has been emailing with Park and Rec Department and they are very interested in this idea and will discuss at their meeting. Park and Recs did not think that we would need a joint sub committee to execute the project.

- (a) It was discussed that DBC has contingency money that we can offer to help get this project started and hopefully we could put our logo on the buckets.
- (b) Juliet said that she had photos of cleaning up the beach from last year that she could find and could be displayed in Town Hall. Tracey suggested that people come into Town Hall for their beach stickers starting May 1st so this could be a good time to market these efforts.

**Other New Business:** Sarah asked if there is a reason that the DBC meetings were not on the First Selectman's list of upcoming meetings for February. Juliet was going to stop into the office to find out.

**7. Adjourn:** There being no further business, the Board moved to adjourn at 10:52am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Schwarz  
Secretary