



# Minutes

## Darien Beautification Commission

June 7th, 2023, 10:30 am  
Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road  
Room 119

1. Call to order: Sarah Schwarz, chair, at 10:35am. Present: Sarah Schwarz, Chair; Alicia Peperone, Co-Chair; Tracey Whitehouse, Treasurer; Elizabeth Hall, Secretary; Jackie Stoddard McKee, Amanda Segura, Colleen Kalvaitis
2. Minutes of April 19, 2023 meeting approved by Jackie Stoddard and Colleen Kalvaitis
3. Treasurer's Report: Presented by Tracey
  - We have \$14000 left to spend in our line account so we don't lose it, easily spend with watering Elder 3x week
  - DBC was approved for \$33K budget starting July 1st, 2023
  - Tree work to do at circle in June - Tracey will contact a tree pruning company called Cotta.
  - Move \$3000 to Adopt a Garden budget as we have 2 more clean ups, they need mulch and could use up to \$6000 in work.
  - Tracey will let us know estimate for pruning trees at Town Hall etc but the money will be spent by June 30th, 2023
  - We are planning to put in grass seed at circle.
  - Town Hall - discussion on whether we get money for decorations for fall and winter planters this year
  - Sarah will get the amount due for the Beach Clean up Stations

4. Update on Adopt-a-Garden:
  - Alicia - handed out a sign up sheet to reach out to landscape companies in June, will resend form to us to send to companies and contact info.
  - It would be great to get a Notice to Bid into the paper. We have not been successful reaching Marli Hayes. Tracey has been in touch with her re: baskets and will go in town newsletter so she will try outreach.
  - AAG Signs were removed. They are in Elizabeth's possession, she will send a list of signs of the signs
  - Curb work - some Adopt A Gardens cannot be installed until the curbs are fixed. Perhaps curbs go into the town's budget for next year?
  
5. Discuss open positions: There are currently 7 members with a total of 9 positions. Linda O'Leary has 3 completed applications. They are waiting for interviews with the Board of Selectmen. Sarah heard that Melissa Kelly was nominated by RTC and she has her own business doing plants in seasonal pots.
  
6. Beach Bucket Foundation Update: Beach Buckets installed and clean up last week, went well. Sarah will store extra ones in her garage. Our logo on bucket with Park and Rec's logo.
  
7. BC Partnership with Pollinator Pathway for a table at the 2023 Darien Celebration of Pride event on June 11th, 12-4pm at Tilley Pond Park. Give away native plants that would be removed from the town hall slopes. Vote and assign roles (plant collection, staffing the table, marketing etc): June 11th 12:00-4:00, plant giveaway with us for Pride Event at Tilley Pond Park. Sarah, Colleen, and Elizabeth can split up time slots. Tracey, Colleen, and Elizabeth are labelling plants with Juliet tomorrow.
  - Sarah will get a DBC banner made with our logo for Sunday if possible.
  - Slopes and circle at Town Hall look really nice, getting lots of compliments

8. Pollinator Pathway Garden Tour: discuss putting the slope on the tour. Vote discuss staffing, marketing, etc. Pollinator Pathway Garden Tour 6/24
  - Next year as a commission see Greenwich garden tour - people's personal gardens
  - Greenwich Historical Society and Greenwich Botanical garden tour - fund raisers
  
9. End of year report: anyone add to end of year report, projections from Tracey from last year will be sent to Sarah.
  - Fiscal year starts July 1st.
  
10. Talking to other Beautification Commission, making connections, idea generation: Port Chester, New Canaan
  - Adopt a garden - art installations (Port Chester) find contacts and meet? PC Beautification Commission and NC Beautification League -follow on Instagram
  - Contact list intergovernmental commissions build partnerships with our own town
  - Document and a goals for next year - NC Beautification.org - they do similar things to us, on instagram/website aspirational, monthly newsletter June is recap and contact list, and ideas, Jackie will reach out to New Canaan, Westport, and Greenwich, "informal" garden visits
  
11. Additional new business:
  - Sarah is putting together folder with a tab for each section of Beautification for the future reference
  - Green Team had our name on one of the signs in the Memorial Day Parade, we didn't know about that but we'll look into it for next year.
  - Do we want to be more open about what positions we need to fill here? Like Secretary etc. when people join, give them some time first is the consensus
  
12. Adjournment:
  - Motion at 11:35 AM to adjourn Tracey Whitehead and Amanda Segura

