

DARIEN BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

SARAH SCHWARZ, CHAIR
ALICIA PEPERONE, VICE CHAIR
TRACEY WHITEHEAD, TREASURER
ELIZABETH HALL, SECRETARY
KIRSTEN DUNLAP
COLLEEN KALVAITIS
MELISSA KELLY
AMANDA SEGURA
JACKIE STODDARD



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 13, 2023, 9:00am

Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Room 119

1. Call to order. 9:05am Move by Elizabeth and Tracey seconded. Present: Sarah Schwarz, Alicia Peperone, Colleen Kalvaitis, Jackie Stoddard, Amanda Segura, Tracey Whitehead, Elizabeth Hall, Kirsten Dunlap and on the phone Melissa MacBride
2. Approve Minutes from 6/7 & 7/12. Jackie moved to approve and seconded by Amanda
3. Welcome new members, Kirsten and Melissa. Go around the room and make introductions and how long we have been on the commission.
4. Treasurer's Report: Tracey will send out payments via email. New budget: only paid Elder so far in new July budget, more expenses this month for weeding
5. Report on meeting with Ed Gentile, Public Works:
 - Ed requested advance warning at least 48 hours if our commission does something that requires his help.
 - Does anyone know who is responsible for the Fire Station garden near parking lot - benches? We will find out?
 - Town Website will tell us which belongs to town and which to state via GeoMap.
 - The new town signs created by Hung Well will probably be installed November-ish. Careful where to put our signs re: cars hitting them, impeding view etc.
 - Discussion about the Corbin District - lamps, baskets, planters, benches, talk to David Genoese about these issues.

6. Update on Adopt-a-Garden Re-launch Status:
 - Jackie made printouts of all gardens.
 - Review of Adopt A Gardens review for Melissa and Kirsten
 - Colleen took note of signs, curbs, and gardens with Jackie earlier this summer. October is the latest time to plant for the Spring. Suggestions through Nielsen's re. Gardens as well as Costello.
 - Melissa had a suggestion: Lille Designs to design and plant, local resident and has a crew, we'll see how much \$, Jackie will connect with Melissa.
 - Nielsen's no estimate yet and Costello, not sure either if they'll be too expensive. Subcommittee to meet about all of this.
 - What can we do by October to plant a few in some of the gardens in the meantime. Concentrate on the ones that aren't getting curbs replaced.
 - When should we send out notification to companies where they have had gardens to let them know things will change.
 - Signs for Success and Alpha Graphics estimates - Colleen and Jackie will try East Coast Signs and reach out to Hung Well again. Discussion about how the sign will look, we decided on white background in the past. Decided to keep that.
7. Recap of Pollinator Pathway Tour: We had 4 people manning the slope and 4 people show up. May need fewer DBC representatives next year. The people who showed were in thirsted in the plant giveaway.
8. Update on talking to other Commissions: Sarah and Alicia are attending the Green Team Meeting on 9/18. Colleen would like to join too.
9. 2023-24 Budget Discussion: Sarah should talk to Juliet for advise before budgets are due.
10. Brainstorming on future DBC projects:
 - Sarah asked if anyone has any new ideas for projects. She was brainstorming for ideas like benches, planters, art installations. She made a suggestion that we could do something like the SONO art piece under the train tracks in Darien. She suggested it could say 'DARIEN' and Melissa suggested that '06820' might be better. The commission liked the idea but there was some concerns that it might be hard to achieve with State DOT property. The idea was to brighten up some of the darker locations.

- Tracey would like to install holiday lights on the trees at town hall. She will test the electrical outlet.
 - It was suggested that we keep a running list of ideas and Sarah will keep the list.
11. Talk about Park and Rec Bench sponsoring program: It was useful to see their pricing structure. These benches are only for Park and Rec locations.
 12. Communication between meetings amongst Commission members: Keep talking between meetings, email preferable over text.
 13. Additional new business :
 - Pam Geary is looking for volunteers for Rocktober Fest on 10/7
 - Elizabeth gave an update on Amy's Smile Garden. She added 3 new plants and weeded. The sign there does not look good so Colleen was going to look into getting a replacement sign. It was suggested that it would be nice if the sign said that the garden was in honor of Amy, but we don't know her last name.
 14. Adjourn: 10:22am: Amanda move to adjourn Colleen seconded