

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 **October 11, 2023, 9:00am** **Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Room 119**

1. Call to order: Sarah Schwarz Chair, Move by Elizabeth Hall and Colleen Kalvaitis.
Present: Sarah Schwarz, Elizabeth Hall, Alicia Peperone, Colleen Kalvaitis, Melissa Kelly, Amanda Segura, Tracey Whitehead, Kirsten Dunlap
2. Move to Approval of 9/13/23 Minutes: 1st Alicia, 2nd Amanda
3. Sarah Schwarz reviews Minutes from last month, reading out loud.
3. Sarah Schwarz reviews Freedom of Information Act from the Town of Darien.
4. Treasurer's Report: Tracey Whitehead: August Watering, Initial cleanup by Elder, and additional boxwoods for Town Hall circle. Elder continues to charge only \$30.00 per hour. Last 3 gardens will be done soon by Elder. Routinely cleaning throughout next summer, \$3,000.00 or perhaps just March and maybe Spring. Mulch costs \$\$, need to add to budget. Allocate this year's budget through May and then look at how much we've spent and take it from there. New budget has to be decided in November for starting July 2025. \$33K allocated for this year. Tracey will put everything in a document and share with us re: our expenses from this year so we can use it to gauge 2025. Donation from Goodwives Shopping Center, \$400.00 a year, discussion. Should we add a Capital Project request for updating the State of CT DOT garden near the Darien Fire Dept.
6. Green Team Meeting: different groups come together from town which are environmentally based: Wildlife Management, Tree Conservancy, Sustainability

Commission, Garden Club, and Land Trust. Quarterly meetings, we can help each other out. Colleen and Sarah will try to attend meetings in the future.

7. Weeding and pruning - Tracey and Colleen at Town Hall. Bluestone on the circle gets great feedback about it leading to the bench. Great Island is taking a lot of work and people.
8. Town Hall Planters: Melissa Kelly will do planters at Town Hall. 7 planters, so we have to figure out what to plant - cabbages, wreaths in December - ivy - \$100.00 per container. All voted in favor of spending ~\$100/planter and spending money in the Winter season for wreaths. Motion to spend \$700.- \$1,000 for fall Move to spend \$700. - \$1,000 on planters - 1st Elizabeth and 2nd Kirsten.
9. Hanging baskets - Discussion on color selection - blue, white, green and moss. Add verbena since that trails down. In 2023 decided to install them a week earlier. Tracey will make the final selections and then get the order in to Beds and Borders. (\$40 each) . Move to vote: Colleen 1st, Amanda 2nd. Tracey will check out the prices etc. More baskets and more brackets will be needed going forward due to the construction at the Corbin District. The lampposts are on town land so we purchase the baskets and the brackets. Tracey will do a re-count of the lampposts.
10. Update on curb fixes. Post Road and Hollow Tree Ridge Rd is complete. Nearwater is not. Any others? Alicia will follow up with Ed Gentile.
11. Is there a completion date for the new 'Welcome to Darien' sign installs? Discussion about the sheet metal sign near Whole Foods. The commission agrees that the Vinyl signs (e.g. Baker Park) are much better than sheet metal.
12. Future DBC projects: Flower pots, Trees (Tree conservancy?) Benches (Park & Rec) Art (Like SONO sign) Holiday Season decorating contest, Holiday lights at Town Hall trees. No new suggestions.
13. 2019 agenda item: "Create program for 'No Empty Windows' Work with Historical Society and landlords to develop program". Any idea what this was?
14. AAG sub committee Report:
 1. Discussion that the sub committee should be molded back into the regular meetings. All in agreement.
 2. Relaunch letter to be sent out. Sarah and Amanda will figure out who to send letters to and will send out the letter.
 3. #11 next to the Darien Fire Dept and Post Rd and Mansfield, decide what do do since we know that Public Works and Fire Chief not involved in initial installation. Melissa

reached out to Monuments and Ceremonies, and they say that they did not install this garden.

4. Finalize new AAG signs: should choose from a few renderings. Discussion of White background with green lettering. \$45 per in sheet metal, but looks really bad. \$205 in vinyl. All agreed that this is a better route. Colleen going to figure out sizes and exact mock up and get a price.

15. Volunteers to take over as Secretary? No one volunteered.

16. Additional new business:

1. Sarah Schwarz met with David Genovese. He is interested in an Adopt a Garden and shared his contacts for Landscaper, landscape designer and artist, Sandy Garnett, who could be a artist that we can talk to. Melissa going to reach out to Sandy.
2. Melissa suggested that at the next meeting we work on setting up an instagram poll to get the town more involved. Create a campaign? Get High School art students to participate?

17. Adjourn 10:15am, Amanda 1st and Kirsten 2nd.