

STONINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Sept 18, 2023

Stonington Police Department

Members present: Carole Nossek, Kit Hartford, Julie Holland, Cynthia Moore, Eric Beverly, Ann Marie Castagno-Clark and Stacy Cassata

Guests: Megan Kacenski

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. Co-Chair Stacy Cassata called meeting to order at 5:00PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of minutes July 15, 2023
 - a. Motion made by Julie Holland; seconded by Carole Nossek; motion approved and carried.
- 4) New Business
 - a. Correspondence
 - i. Email from resident Patty Luxton regarding improvements to cul-de-sac on Wampassuc Road, Stonington.
 - ii. Email from Barbara Hanno from The Denison Cemetery Committee regarding improvements to entrance of cemetery.
 - iii. Email from resident Gaye Penney regarding volunteer opportunities in Downtown Pawcatuck
 - b. Fall Planting Schedule
 - i. Co- Chair Carole Nossek announced that she will be working with committee member Cynthia Moore on Fall plantings in the memorials Downtown and the Stonington Police Dept Pots. Eric Beverly completed the 3 pots on Pequot Trail and volunteered to plant the Westerly/ Pawcatuck and Stillman Ave Bridges. Beverly also volunteered to plant the Higgins Planter in Downtown Pawcatuck and the Welcome to Pawcatuck Island. Julie Holland announced she will be planting the pots at Stonington Public Schools as directed by Facilities Director Peter Anderson. Holland announced that the school pays for the material and this committee volunteers the labor. Holland also volunteered to plant the pots at the Gazebo in Donahue Park and add Fall hanging pots. Kit Hartford volunteered to plant the Welcome to Mystic Sign planter. Committee members mentioned the Route 1 Island in Stonington and the Willow Island in Mystic both look great and no new plants were needed at this time. Nossek mentioned the Civil War Memorial in Mystic looks nice and acknowledged volunteer Jordan Kenyon for trimming back the bushes.
 - c. Downtown Pawcatuck Future Plantings under Amtrak Bridge

- i. Holland announced that both Amtrak and the state approved future gardens and lighting under the Amtrak Bridge in Downtown Pawcatuck. Holland reminded the committee this is to improve the gateway into our historical downtown area. Holland and Nossek announced they worked with DPW , and intern engineer Steven Matilie from DPW in submitting a landscape design to the state that included many of same varieties of perennials, including pollinating plants the committee has been using in other projects. Holland said she would ask DPW if the committee can assist with any of these plantings being it's on state property. Committee members approved \$3,000 in funding for the first phase of plantings underneath the Amtrak bridge. Holland announced she will work on a donation letter to mail to local business in Pawcatuck for monetary donations in completing the garden project. Cassata volunteered to visit local business with letter and ask for donations.
- d. Stonington Landfill Future Garden by Entrance

Nossek announced she has been in communication with solid waste Manager Jill Senior regarding the committee planting a landscaped garden at the entrance of the landfill. Committee members supported the project and agreed to allocate \$1,500 for this project. Holland asked Beverly for his recommendations on plantings for this area. Beverly recommended deer resistant plants. Holland and Nossek will work with DPW on scheduling this project for Fall 2023 or Spring 2024.
- e. EDC Support/ Gateways in Stonington
 - I. Tabled
- f. Denison Burial Ground Committee Support
 - i. Nossek announced she has been in communication with Denison Cemetery Committee member Barbara Hanno regarding improvements to the entrance of the cemetery in Mystic. They welcomed the SBC support in making improvements to the entrance which also is a highly visible area along Route 1 in Mystic, Committee members agreed to support the improvements to the planters along the entrance and to look for a sponsor to help fund seasonal flowers planted in the pots.
- g. Downtown Pawcatuck Old Higgins Building Planter
 - i. Nossek announced she has been in touch with the building owner of 43 West Broad St, LLC and he has donated \$250 to the SBC for committee to change the planter seasonally. Members agreed that the planter is highly visible in Downtown Pawcatuck and part of the history of the old Higgins Pharmacy building. Eric Beverly volunteered to change out planter seasonally.
- h. Welcome to Mystic Sign/ Route 1 Discussion
 - i. i. Committee member Kit Hartford volunteered to plant the pot at the Welcome to Mystic Sign for Fall. Hartford mentioned that the grasses around the sign are getting too overgrown. Hartford, also announced that the poles on the sign need to be painted. Holland said

she would reach out to public works regarding the painting of the poles. Hartford would reach out to volunteer Jordan Kenyon regarding trimming around the sign.

j. Holiday Decorations

- i. Holland asked the committee that all Holiday Decorations and plantings are completed before Nov 22nd.

i. Scarecrow Contest/ Holiday Decorating Contest

- ii. Co Chair Stacy Cassata volunteered to get all the trophies and prizes for the contest. Holland announced that the Scarecrow Contest flyer is complete and will be advertised on social media and that Human Services will bring copies to the open houses at all Stonington Public Schools that week.

5) Old Business

a. Update on 2023-2024

- i. Holland announced she has been in communication with DPW regarding scheduling with the tree plantings for Spellman Park, Water pollution property and Human Services. The DPW will not start the Human Services tree project until Spring of 2024 due to scheduling. They are hoping to do some of the tree plantings for Spellman Park and WPCA late Oct or November of 2023 if scheduling allows.

b. Update on Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project/ Safety

i. Holland announced she was in communication with DPW and was told that work on new lighting in Donahue Park and under the Amtrak bridge in Pawcatuck will start late Sept or early October. Holland also announced she continues to advocate to the state with Stonington Police Dept support on repainting the pedestrian walk ways along Route 1 in Pawcatuck. Holland also announced that the predestination crosswalk signs worked wonderful this summer in downtown Pawcatuck and thanked the SPD for supplying them.

c. Comments from the public

Volunteer Megan Kacenski announced she would like to see a Christmas Tree planted in Mystic to light up for the holidays. Kacenski announced that she would be happy to donate a tree. Kacenski asked for the committee's support locating a space with the town and seek approval for planting.

6) Meeting Adjourned at 5:05PM

- a. Motion made by Stacy Cassata ;2nd by Holland, motion approved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland
Committee Member

Stacy Cassata
Julie Holland

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