

## STONINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting

Nov 20, 2023

### Stonington Police Department

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

- 1) Call to Order
  - a. Co-Chair Stacy Cassata called meeting to order at 5:00PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of minutes Sept 18, 2023
  - a. Motion made by Carole Nossek; seconded by Cynthia Moore; motion approved and carried.
- 4) New Business
  - a. Correspondence
    - i. Email from Michele Cahill from The Stonington Historical Society Cemetery Committee inviting an SBC member to attend their next meeting to learn more about this newly formed committee's mission and the great work this group of volunteers is doing.
    - ii. Email from Barbara Hanno from The Denison Cemetery Committee regarding improvements to entrance of cemetery.
  - b. SBC Town Budget Request 2024-2025
    - i. Committee member Julie Holland went over Draft Budget and Commentary for the 2024-2025 SBC Budget. Co-Chairs Carole Nossek and Stacy Cassata recommended to the committee to keep with the 10k budget that would cover all the costs to maintain all current gardens, seasonal pots and other maintenance. Holland recommended to leave a small budget of \$1,500 to add new pollinating garden and native trees. Committee members discussed the importance of fundraising and grant writing in the new year to cover and additional costs and future projects.
  - c. Holiday Decorations Installation
    - i. Nossek went over Holiday Decorating check list with committee members which included memorials, bridges, Donahue Park, Stonington Police Dept, Human Services, Schools and Gateways in Stonington. Nossek and Cassata thanked committee members for all their hard work and mentioned they had been receiving many complements on the decorations. Nossek thanked Cassata for supplying volunteers from her staff at Stonington Arms that helped

install decorations in Downtown Pawcatuck. Holland announced her family is donating the additional costs of new wreaths, stands, and ribbon for memorials. Committee member Ann Marie Castagno-Clark asked committee members for additional funding for the Welcome to Mystic Sign planter to add a tree and decorations. Committee members approved additional costs for Welcome to Mystic Sign plantings.

d. Holiday Decorating Contest

i.. Holland passed out flyers for this year's Holiday Decorating Contest and mentioned that the flyer is also being shared on line and will be in the next issue of Stonington Magazine. Cassata announced she received two gift cards for the winners and purchased the trophies for the business and nonprofit winners.

e. Grants/ Donations/ fundraisers

i. Holland announced she just submitted a grant to The Stonington Rotary to fund additional trees in Stonington. Nossek and Cassata mentioned they will reach out to local restaurants in January to see if they can host a Dine to Donate for the committee.

f. Stonington Historical Cemetery Committee Support

i. Nossek announced she attended the Stonington Historical Cemetery Committee last meeting and learned all about the amazing work this small group of volunteers is doing in improving many of the older cemeteries in Stonington. Holland recommended that one member of SBC attend their meetings regularly to lend support and keep a line of communication going. Holland asked Nossek to put it out to all committee members if they have interest in attending.

ii. Nossek announced that she planted alongside committee member Cynthia Moore, 70 heritage daffodil bulbs provided by the Denison Homestead Society. She also shared that the Denison Cemetery Committee was very appreciative of all the work the SBC has been doing to improve the entrance to the cemetery.

5) Old Business

a. Update on Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project/ Plantings

i. Holland announced that the downtown lighting project was going very well and additional work was being done to add 3 outlets under the Amtrak Bridge. These power outlets could potentially be used by the committee, town, nonprofits for holiday lighting, events, and any potential future signage. Holland also announced the outlets would be locked when not in use. Nossek mentioned that she has been getting so many emails and messages from residents that love the new lighting in Downtown Pawcatuck and Donahue Park. Nossek and Holland also announced to the committee the plantings were being installed that week. Holland thanked Cassata for her help with donation letters from local business. Holland announced that local business donated a total of \$2,300 which covered the cost of the new

plantings under the Amtrak bridge. Holland announced thank you cards were sent out and businesses were acknowledged on the SBC Facebook Page.

b. Update on Gateway to Donahue Park Plantings

Eric Beverly announced that the Gateway to Donahue Park plantings were complete. Beverly announced he added 150 perennial plants to the area which included many pollinating plants. Beverly shared with committee members he did have to remove some of the mulch that was recently added to level the area. Beverly recommended that the committee and town need to be mindful to not over mulch it is not healthy for the plants. Holland thanked Beverly for his recommendation and said she would talk to the town as well.

c. Update on Wamphassuc Rd cul-de-sac

Volunteer Megan Kacenski was unable to attend meeting but let Nossek and Holland know that she has been in communication with residents of the Wamphassuc Rd cul-de-sac and the neighbors are willing to fund the future trees in this area. SBC would need to get approval from the town to allow tree plantings in the area and that the town would need to mow around the trees. Kacenski mentioned the potential tree plantings would not be until the spring of 2024.

d. Update on Tree Plantings-Spellman Park/ WBCA/ Human Services

- i. Holland announced that funding for the three trees in Spellman Park and six trees at WPCA property have been set aside. The scheduling of the planting of these trees would be under the scheduling of The Stonington Public Works Dept. Holland mentioned the Hwy dept has been very supportive to the SBC and the committee understands the importance of patience in getting these beautification projects done. Holland also mentioned the Human Services parking lot tree project would hopefully take place in spring of 2023 if scheduling allows with SPW. This project would be funded by the town.

e. Meeting Adjourned at 6:05PM

I. Motion made by Stacy Cassata ;2<sup>nd</sup> by Kit Hartford, motion approved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland  
Committee Member

Stacy Cassata  
Julie Holland  
approved  
3/11/2024