

STONINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
March 11, 2024
Stonington Human Services

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

Guest: Leanne Theodore, Human Services Director

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. Co-Chair Stacy Cassata called meeting to order at 5:00PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2023
 - a. Motion made by Kit Hartford; seconded by Carole Nossek; motion approved and carried.
- 4) New Business
 - a. Correspondence
 - i. Thank you letter from Ruth Miller, Denison Board of Trustees – Re: Work the SBC completed at the Denison Burial Ground.
 - ii. Email from Patti Burmahl, Director of Administrative Services – Re: SBC volunteer opportunities for Stonington students in the post-graduate transition program for young adults (age 18-22) with disabilities.
 - iii. Email from Adrienne Altobelli, Davis Standard Re: Volunteers readied for town-wide Earth Day efforts.
 - iv. Email from Ann Marie Houle, Stonington High School – Re: SHS Volunteer Day on April 26 Interested in SBC projects.
 - v. Phone call to Carole Nossek from Johnny Vincent, Charter Oak (Pawcatuck) – Re: Volunteers readied for town-wide Earth Day efforts.
 - vi. Email from Daniel Oliverio, Resident – Re: Possibility of SBC support/engagement of planting new trees on the state-owned island located in front of Buzzi Memorial, Stonington Road, as well as general improvements to the property, including a new Stonington sign.
 - b. Earth Day
 - i. Human Services Director, Leanne Theodore, discussed potential SBC partnership on an Earth Day community event, which would revolve around inspiring residents to clean up streets in their neighborhood and beyond. Human Services would sponsor safety vests, gloves and bags. A Facebook page will be created to share progress and incentivize resident participation, with pictures being sent in including number of bags filled. For each bag filled a ticket will be

entered to win an Earth Day-themed prize. A Google map will also be created to track progress and identify which Stonington streets have already been addressed and which required a clean-up. Flyer to follow.

- ii. Carole Nossek announced that Charter Oak - Pawcatuck is looking for cleanup opportunities and can help with cleanup efforts.
- iii. Julie Holland announced that she is in communication with volunteers from Davis Standard and they are excited to participate as well.

c. Arbor Day

- i. Julie Holland announced that she will be obtaining tree saplings for volunteers to plant on Arbor Day and that they will be working with DPW to also plant a tree on that day.

d. Fundraising Update

- i. Stacy Cassata announced that the Dine to Donate at Pooch's Pour House in Westerly was a complete success with SBC in receipt of a check for \$510, which will go towards the bridge planters that service both Pawcatuck and Westerly.
- ii. Cassata also announced the Rain Barrel fundraiser (featured in the recent edition of Stonington Magazine) is in progress and residents can purchase on line.
- iii. Carole Nossek announced that she has put donation watering cans at Hamms Wine Cellar, Evans Mobil, and Flemings Feed and ensured that she will check on them regularly.
- iv. Nossek also announced that Big Y will be donating a \$1 to SBC for every reusable bag purchased in their Mystic Store for the month of March and April.
- v. Julie Holland announced that donation letters sent to local businesses this past Fall and Winter were a complete success earning funds to support plantings and trees in Stonington. All donors have received a thank you letter and have also been acknowledged on the SBC Facebook page and Stonington Magazine.

e. Town Grant

- i. Julie Holland announced the Board of Finance FY24-25 deliberation dates and that if any SBC members would like to attend, she would send the formal schedule. Holland also announced that the SBC submitted a level funding request at \$10,000. Holland also announced that any additional projects, such as new gardens and trees for the next fiscal year, would need to be funded via campaigns, fundraisers and/or grants.

f. Spring Planting - Check List/Budget

- i. Julie Holland went over a Spring planting check list and budget that the SBC was set to complete by end of March.

5) Old Business

- a. Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project/Plantings

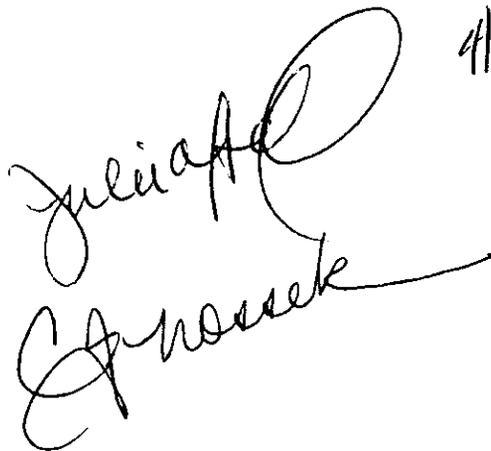
- i. Julie Holland announced that the lighting project in Donahue Park is on schedule to be completed this Spring, as well as the planting project under the Amtrak bridge. The funding from business donations will cover the cost of additional plantings.
- b. Gateway to Donahue Park Plantings
 - i. Eric Beverly announced that the gateway to Donahue Park plantings were completed in the Fall. Beverly announced he had added (150) perennial plants to the area, which included many pollinating plants and that he would be out this Spring to deadhead and sift the mulch.
- c. Wamphassuc Rd Cul-De-Sac
 - i. Julie Holland announced that permission from the Town was received to plant trees; discussion will continue at next month's meeting.
- d. Stonington Transfer Station - Future Garden Installation
 - i. Carole Nossek stated that she would be meeting with members of the Department of Public Works and the Transfer Station to go over the plant selection and the size of the garden to be installed. Nossek also announced that she would be submitting a grant to the Stonington Garden Club for funding. Holland asked Nossek to check with DPW to determine if they have any cobblestones and/or hardscape available for this project for edging.
 - ii. Holland announced that DPW planted the 3 additional flowering native trees in Spellman Park in late November. These trees are located by the outside basketball court and softball field. The Human Services and Water Pollution Property trees are scheduled to be planted this spring. Holland announced they have been consulting with Megan Kacenski, who is a CT Licensensed Arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts who has been volunteering her time with the town to support planting native trees in Stonington in the right locations.

6) Meeting Adjourned at 5.55 PM

- a. Motion made by Ann Marie Castagno-Clark; seconded by Kit Hartford; motion approved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland
Committee Member



Handwritten signatures of Julie Holland and Carole Nossek. The signature of Julie Holland is written in cursive and is positioned above the signature of Carole Nossek, which is also in cursive. To the right of the signatures, the date "4/22/2024" is handwritten in black ink.

4/22/2024