

Town of Stonington
152 Elm St
Stonington, CT 06378
Stonington Beautification Committee
Regular Meeting Nov 21, 2022

*approved
11/30/23*

Members present: Stacy Cassata, Carole Nossek, Kit Hartford, Julie Holland

Absent: Eric Beverly, Danny Oliverio, Ayo Bryant and Kristen Parsens

- 1) Call to Order-Co Chair Stacy Cassata called meeting to order at 5:00PM
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of minutes by Julie Holland 2nd by Kit Hartford, All in favor
- 4) New Business

a) Correspondence

*Paul Geise EDC member is creating a Cultural District of the Arts Subcommittee asking for The Stonington BC participation. Carole Nossek volunteered to represent the Stonington BC in future meetings.

b). Winter Plantings/ Holiday Decorations.

Julie Holland announced the Holiday plantings are underway. Holland announced the plantings at Stonington Public Schools are completed. Holland also let the committee know the planters on the two bridges will be decorated for the Holidays by Nov 25th by committee members Eric Beverly and his wife Laura Beverly. Holland announced the Beverly's also decorated the pots on the corner of South Broad St/ Pequot Trail. Eric will also be placing a tree at the Veterans Memorial for committee members to decorate in honor of our veterans and first responders. Kit Hartford volunteered to place the four wreaths at the Civil War Memorial in Mystic and plant the pots by the welcome to Mystic Sign. Julie will be planting the planters at the memorials and placing the holiday wreaths, but asked the committee members for support hanging red bows on the trees at the Korean Memorial and the VFW memorial. Stacy said she will have volunteers and staff at Stonington Arms help decorate. Carole Nossek announced she will take care of the Pots at the Police Station.

c). Holiday Decorating Contest

Holland announced the 3rd Annual Holiday Decorating Contest is underway. Like years before there will be awards for first and second prizes for residents, business, and community/ Schools. Holland asked the committee support to distribute flyers and ask business for prizes. Stacy and Kit volunteered to get prizes for all categories. The contest ends Dec 23rd.

d). Fundraising/ Grant Discussion

Holland announced she will be working on a local grant for funding of new native trees for the Town of Stonington. Deadline is the second week in December.

e). Community Tree Planting Program

Kit Hartford announced she is working on a Draft for a Community Tree Planting Program which with fundraising efforts could be set up to use matching grants with Sustainability CT for up to \$15,000. Hartford announced she would like to see trees given to residents to plant on their own properties and help educate the public about climate change. Hartford asked the committees support as she works on ideas. Holland suggested a subcommittee be put together and meet regularly, also suggesting January meeting be focused on this topic and invite the town tree wardens.

f). Start of Grand List of Future Tree Plantings

Tabled for next meeting

g). Discussion Trimming bushes by Welcome to Mystic Sign

Holland announced the area is state property and Stonington Public Works Dept would need to contact the state to trim them. Carole said she would reach out to Public Works this week.

h). Safety/ Lighting Downtown Pawcatuck

Holland reported she attended the Stonington Police Commission Meeting in Oct. Holland asked the commission to look into the current pedestrian walks in Downtown Pawcatuck and the current lighting over the winter months to improve safety. She reported to the committee that she has seen many people jay walking down town and feels it's a big safety concern. Holland also mentioned that Amtrack just installed lighting under the Amtrack Bridge in Westerly and would like the town of Stonington to look into lighting under the Amtrack Bridge in Downtown Pawcatuck. She asked the commission if they had a contact for Amtrack to please let her know. Holland mentioned she will follow up with the commission after the Holidays.

i). Gateway to Donahue Park Seasonal Pot/ Future Garden Discussion

Cassata will follow up with Jewett City Bank in January on grinding the tree stump down and permission for our committee to plant a garden in the spring.

j). Under Amtrack Bridge Pawcatuck/ Future Planting Discussion

Eric Beverly is working on design for future plantings. Design will need to be approved by the state.

k). Approval Meeting Schedule 2023

Holland made motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule 2nd by Kit Hartford

l). Town Grant Discussion

Committee decided to ask the town for \$10,000 for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget to maintain current seasonal plantings and support future projects including the planting of more native trees. Holland will send draft to chairs to approve and send to First Selectman's office by deadline.

approved
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m). SBC Membership and Volunteers 2023

Discussion of getting more community volunteers to help water and weed downtown in the summer.

5. Old Business

a). Tree Plantings

Holland reported 3 native trees were funded by committee and planted by DPW in Stonington over the Fall season.

b). Scarecrow Contest

Holland reported the contest was a success. Winners were announced on social media and given prizes and trophies over the past week.

c.) Willow St Island Project Mystic

Nossek reported the Willow St. Island Project is complete and the neighbors of the community have been reaching out to committee members with their thanks for cleaning up the Island. Nossek thanked community volunteer Shaun Mastronianni for all his efforts in designing and planting the garden.

6. Comments from the Public

No comments

g) Meeting Adjourn 6:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland

Committee Member



approved 1/30/23