

**TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES: November 5, 2018**

**MEETING :** Watchung Council Chambers 11:00am  
Meeting started 11:10 am , ending 12 noon

**ATTENDEES:** Phyllis Juette, Julie Schlotterbeck, Mary Ann Weber, Gail Tafaro,  
Vonnie Mott, Terry DeFilippis

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: READ AND APPROVED**

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**CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY DECORATIONS:**

\* Friday November 16th committee will meet at 11am at Texier House  
to put up Christmas decorations (Rain date Monday November 19th)

\* Needed for decorations:

- up to forty new red flat bows 12-14 "for fence, trees, etc.
- large gold balls for fence on Village Green
- plastic green garland for trees at municipal building
- spool of wire to have on hand for bows

**(Terry will look at Christmas Tree Shop and Vonnie will look at Gray's Florist for balls and bows )**

-work out a way to possibly hang a wreath on the Texier Door

\*Mary Ann noted that the fence at the town square needs to be fixed. **She will notify Maria Fittapaldi.** Also noted was Lane (?) is rewiring the two Christmas Trees that are placed at the municipal building entrance. **Mary Ann will contact him** to make sure they will be ready by the 16th. He will charge approx. \$40 for materials and labor which all agreed was a fair price.

## **BUDGET REPORT:**

Mary Ann reported on the budget:

\*Budget for commission is \$2000.00 each year.  
\$1000 for horticulture material/\$600 for other/\$400 professional landscaping services (I stand to be corrected)

\* 2018 expenses: \$1,242.56..... balance : \$757.44.  
(saved \$129.00 by having Grey's Florist donate mums and stalks)

## **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:**

\*Phyllis will cut back the lilies at the town hall.

\*Sidewalks were discussed regarding how costly it would be to replace with concrete as trees would be needed to be removed, etc. Macadam is more likely solution but must wait till next year to apply for grant

## **COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS:**

\* **Gail** : too many crosswalk signs on circle and approach to circle.  
Is there anything we can do?

\* **Gail**: incorporate the schools with Halloween display contest and other community projects throughout the year.

\* **Julie** : the 911 memorial on the Village Green looks overgrown and needs attention. **Town should be made aware.**

\* **Phyllis** : Watchung Lake needs to replace a cherry tree . Mary Ann noted that it might be better to wait until next year after the lake has been dredged.

\* **Terry/Phyllis/Vonnie:** Texier House needs more pansies and mums in the fall. Suggestion for Christmas ...variety of large evergreen cuttings with a big red bow to fill the cement planters.

Discussed as to who is in charge of planting/decorations for Texier House. **Need to inquire.**

\* **Terry:** parking lot at Best Lake could look better. Cut down huge weeds that block the view of waterfall. Maybe put a split rail fence instead of large rocks. There was a discussion as to who actually owns that property... the town? the library? **Need to inquire.**

Section of metal rail on circle is rusted...should be painted black.

\* **Phyllis and Hans Juette** will donate a few Tulip Trees to be planted at Best Lake. They will also donate a bench in the name of Phyllis' mom who has recently passed. Bridal Bridge also needs to be cleared of debris.

\* **Julie :** Watchung Borough needs better street signs that can be seen at night. She noted that new signs have been installed on Washington Drive and Knollwood.. Are more to come?

\* **Phyllis:** Welcome to Watchung/Leaving Watchung signs were discussed in context of the "old" historic cedar signs. Many in Watchung want to keep the old signs. Can we keep them but get new signs also to complement each other? Terry suggested wooden town plaques with colored letters as seen in other towns, i.e. Basking Ridge, Warren, Hillsborough.

**LETTER TO COUNCIL LIAISON :** Councilman Gibbs

**Terry will compose a letter to Gibbs detailing our suggestions:**

\* **better reflective street signs in the borough that can be seen at night.**

\* **input on acquiring new Welcome to Watchung /Leaving Watchung signs in addition and to coordinate with the existing "old" cedar signs.**

**\* who is in charge of plantings and decorations for the Texier House?**

**\* who actually owns the parking lot by Best Lake, Library and Pratt Building.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Terry DeFilippis**