

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION  
February 11, 2019

PRESENT:

Phyllis Juetter, Chair  
Gail Tafari  
Terry DeFillips  
Vonnie Mott  
Mike Galbraith

**Discussion with Mike Galbraith regarding ideas for trees and shrubs**

**Spratford Park:** Enlarge planting bed in front of wall. We need to check if forsythia is doing well along the fence by the stream.

**Somerset Street Median:** Phyllis suggested we plant Rutgers Dogwoods to fill in between the red oaks. Mike will look into availability and price. The Garden Club of Watchung will donate \$100.00 for the purchase of 2 flowers trees or shrubs for the Blue Star Memorial area.

**Borough Hall:** We need to enlarge the planting in the area of the new large lighted sign and plant new shrubs.

Pyracantha was suggested to be planted on the wall to the left of the steps.

Begonias and Stella D'oro lilies suggested for areas in Borough parking lot as was done last year.

**Watchung Lake and Best Lake:** Mike suggested the use of low fencing (12") in areas where geese tend to nest. When the goslings hatch, they will not be able to get to the water and Mother Goose will not like that and leave the area. Mike has seen this being done with success.

**Other Concerns:**

**Seasonal Banners on Somerset street light poles:** It was felt the banners need to be larger and changed with the seasons. Cost to do so needs investigation.

**Over-use of signs by Merchants:** Gail expressed concern about the large number of signs being posted by merchants in various areas in town. We need to investigate signage regulations and the council member and committee we need to contact with this issue. Sondra Epstein, chair of the Environmental Committee stopped in and advised a review of signage regulations and if merchants are not complying, further steps will be taken.

**Best Lake Parking Lot:** Terry stated Best Lake parking lot is in need of improvement and makes our community look unkempt.

**Watchung Sign at the bottom of Hillcrest & in front of the Best Lake Fence:** This area needs to be improved. It was suggested a small wall be constructed with "Watchung" sign attached to the wall. (a mini-version of the wall at Spratford Park.)

**Street Signs:** Administrator, Tom Atkins joined us for this discussion. Gail reported it is difficult to see our street signs at night and would like to use reflective signs. Some signs are covered by tree branches etc. Tom suggested we drive around town and report areas where tree branches are blocking signs to DPW.

**Rustic Watchung signs:** The signs need to be improved and/or replaced. Gail will coordinate a meeting with Amber Murad of the Historical Society to discuss ideas for this project.



Our sign entering Watchung from Warren.



Warren's entrance sign from Watchung

An evening meeting in March with our council liaison, Councilman, Gibbs and Administrator Tom Atkins.

Respectfully submitted.  
Vonnie Mott for Mary Ann Weber