

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION MINUTES  
APRIL 29, 2019

PRESENT:

Phyllis Juetter, Chair  
Linda Lauerman  
Vonnie Mott  
Julie Schlotterbeck  
Mary Ann Weber  
Terry DeFillips  
Gail Tafaro

Meeting opened by Phyllis Juetter 1:10 pm

Points for discussion:

**Operation Pride**

- Notify Karen Pennett to alert the Boy Scouts – Mary Ann
- Phyllis and Mary Ann will check on how many shirts we have
- Phyllis will remind Linda Monetti about the outside signage
- Mary Ann will make signup sheets, bring pens and waters.

**Arbor Day**

- Vonnie Mott reported that the Arbor Day planting has been postponed due to rain. Mike Galbraith is donating the tree to be planted. New date is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Vonnie reported that the deer are destroying the trees at Bayberry. It has been suggested that we purchase tree wrapping for the cherry trees as the deer have eaten away the bark.
- Vonnie also suggested food spikes to help the trees that are not doing well which may help keep them from dying.

**May Plantings:**

- Date moved to May 22<sup>nd</sup> due to Garden Club scheduling
- If the day is very hot, may move planting to late afternoon.
- Phyllis to check with Parker, Black and Galbraith for flat prices and delivery
- Vonnie to check with Hyannis about their price and delivery charge.

- Discussed putting Portulaca in the rain barrels by Boro Hall
- Discussed planting at Blue Star Memorial and bottom of Hillcrest Road.

#### **Library:**

- Garden Club currently has an herb garden and Shakespeare garden that they plant and care for.
- Gail and Terry offered to plant flowers on the left side of the front door.

#### **Watchung sign at the bottom of Hillcrest:**

- Need to get estimates from Galbraith for shrubbery there as well as plant some annuls to draw attention to the sign
- Suggested some solar lighting there – concern brought up that the lights may “walk away”.

#### **Best Lake Parking Lot:**

- Need to find out how much of the property is owned by Boro vs. Pratt Building
- What type of paving or gravel could be put down due to water buildup?
- Consider curbing to give it form and neatness
- Is Pratt building sold and, if so, coordination with new owners would be necessary.

#### **Spratford Park**

- Discussion about Spratford Park came up and the fact that the beds there need to be increased.
- Suggestions included Daffodils planted in the fall so that there would be a great deal of color there in the Spring.
- Perhaps some permanent dwarf boxwoods to add to the existing beds.
- Flowering trees behind the sign would also be a nice option.

#### **9/11 Memorial**

- The sidewalk with the donation bricks is underway. Volunteers have been recruited to do the landscaping work for the sidewalk.
- Seth Alexander is the key person for the 9/11 projects. We need to meet with him for further discussion.

### **Watchung Signs and Stone Walls:**

- Discussion regarding new signs for Watchung. There are residents who like the idea of new signs entering Watchung and some who wish to keep the old signs refurbished.
- Perhaps a combination of both old and new would satisfy everyone.
- Suggested that signs like the ones at the Texier House on poles may be more appropriate. Some color on the signs and possibly the Watchung seal.
- Stone walls with signs was discussed but there may be issues such as cost, foundations on private property, height.
- Again solar lighting was suggested.

### **Best Lake beautification**

- Discussion has gone on in the past about continuing a sidewalk all the way around Best Lake but there have been privacy issues voiced by the residents.
- Suggestion that we may plant more flowering trees

### **Medians:**

- On the median with red oaks there is a large space between the trees. Discussion and suggestions several options: Rutgers Hybrid Dogwoods, Or Blue Caryopteris plants, Cottoncandy Pink grasses which would need to be cut back in early spring,
- Consideration of height of new plantings so there is a site line between the two sides of the median for traffic.
- Question of which plants can be used based on the spacing between trees.
- We must also consider maintenance when choosing plants.

### **Other Issues for discussion:**

- There is \$100,000 set aside by the Boro for beautification of Watchung. How are those funds being allocated? We can submit proposals to the Council for use of these fund.
- In the past, the DPW has hired summer help that could help with projects under this beautification program possibly. We need to speak to the Mayor about possible DPW assistance/summer help.

- Julie brought up the reflective street signs which have been purchased and the old ones replaced. Our understanding is that as the need arises, the street signs in town will be replaced with the new reflective ones.

Next meeting scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.  
Invite Mike Galbraith and Seth Alexander

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Weber