

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION MEETING
MINUTES
April 8, 2021

TELECONFERENCE ATTENDANCE:

KIM DIDONATO
PHYLLIS JUETTE
TERRY DEFILIPPIS
BILL JACQUES, REC COMMISSION TILL 8 P.M.
CHRIS VANDER FLIET, HISTORICAL COMM.
VONNIE MOTT
MARY ANN WEBER
LINDSAY GOODLOE
RACHEL FUNCHEON
GAIL TAFARO
MAUREEN HEMSWORTH
CATHERINE LEIGH
LINDA LAUERMAN
SONDI EPSTEIN

Minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting approved and accepted.

OPERATION PRIDE:

Saturday, May 1, 2021 planned for 10 to Noon. Rain date May 2nd.
Texier House Parking lot.

Operation Pride is set. Mary Ann reported that the shirts are ordered Yellow with Kelly green print. Masks and hand sanitizers are here. The Knights of Columbus are going to do from Saint Mary's and around the circle. Hopefully we will be able to take some new pictures. The one in the Watchung Post was old but that is what we have at the moment.

Lindsay reported that the COVID Plan has been approved and there will be an online sign up. She will ask Edith to make sure that the date is on the town calendar.

CHRIS VANDER FLIET PRESENTATION

AARP is offering a grant for improvements for the town. The grant is due the end of April and Chris presented some ideas that Historical has come up with as suggestions for the grant. He is asking for input from other town committees such as T&B, Environmental, Recreation. The suggestions included raised garden beds, benches and pergola on Texier House property. Possible swinging bench or picnic tables on Texier house property. Perhaps planting some new trees. Update God's Acre cemetery with a new sign which could have a QR code to scan information regarding each gravesite. Another suggestion was a music wall for children. Also mentioned was landscaping for the Texier House front yard. The goal is to get people out and

about town. There is no dollar amount designated for the grant so the application would be for suggested improvements but AARP would have the final decision as to the determination of how much we would receive. If we do get any money from the grant which should be July, the improvements will be required to happen immediately upon approval. Questions that arose during the discussion include wetlands and drainage in back of the Texier House. The fact that the Texier House is in a flood zone would mean anything erected on the lawn would need to be secured properly to avoid moving in floor water. Son-di mentioned that there a lot of trees on the property that are overrun with vines and if removed you may be able to see the gas station which is an eyesore until the new plantings fill out. It was suggested that the street noise from the circle may be an issue using the Texier House lawn for “quiet space” and suggested the Village Green may be a better site. Gail Tafaro also mentioned that whatever was chosen would need to be accessible to senior citizens.

The overall consensus was that the priority idea was the upgrade to the God’s Acre cemetery although it was mentioned that the yard at Texier House is underutilized and does have adequate parking.

If the decision is to landscape the Texier House, it was suggested that the plantings be compatible with the Boro Hall plantings or what will work there.

Chris Vander Fliet thanked everyone for their input. He will continue to work on the grant and ideas for the grant and will keep us updated on the final decision for the application and status of the grant.

MAY PLANTING:

May planting was discussed. Flower flats will be ordered from Grays Florist. Flats will be ordered for T&B and Garden Club. Arthur Wright is the temporary head of the DPW and we should coordinate with him for the garden prep prior to the planting date. Need to Rototill the gardens at least twice prior to the plantings.

Rutgers Coop is holding a webinar on April 14th 7:30 – 9 about pollenated gardens. They will discuss the lantern fly situation and beetle infestations. Rachel mentioned that they are happy to have as many people join the webinar and asked us to spread the word to others to join.

Lindsay mentioned that going forward any requests for help from the DPW should be coordinated through Maria Fittapaldi in the engineering office.

OTHER TOPICS:

In response to the question from the last meeting about recycle buckets left by the street, Lindsay reported that there is no ordinance to cover the recycle buckets. Lindsay will email Law and Ordinance committee about the issue.

The topic of Valley Road sidewalk came up again. Kim Didonato mentioned how bad the sidewalk in some areas especially by Ellison Road. Lindsay reported that the County does not

take responsibility for the sidewalk and it would be a huge expense for the town. The topic of liability was discussed but there is really no recourse. It was suggested that people continue to submit pictures of areas that are a hazard to the Council to keep them aware of the issue.

Memorial Day is coming and Phyllis brought up the flags for the lampposts. It probably will not happen this year and would be a topic for a later date for next year. Perhaps for this year we can put small flags on the ends of the medians to decorate.

The Gas station fence by Spratford Park is an eyesore. We need to find out who owns the fence and ask that it get painted or replaced. We need to continue to think about planting bushes there to hide the fence.

There are trees at Best Lake that are dead and there is a plan to remove 14 trees. Recommendations to replace the trees include Silver Maple, Red Oak, Swamp Maple. We also need to maintain the trees that are there as well.

Next zoom meeting will be held on May 10th at 7:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARY ANN WEBER