

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION MEETING
MINUTES
May 4, 2021

TELECONFERENCE ATTENDANCE:

KIM DIDONATO
PHYLLIS JUETTE
TERRY DEFILIPPIS
VONNIE MOTT
MARY ANN WEBER
LINDSAY GOODLOE
GAIL TAFARO
MAUREEN HEMSWORTH
LINDA LAUERMAN
MATT MURPHY

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

OPERATION PRIDE:

Mary Ann Weber reported that there were approximately 59 volunteers for the cleanup sites. There were at least 15 volunteers at the Texier House including the Environmental Committee members that gave out the tree saplings. We need to order XL and 2 XL shirts for next year as we ran out of XL very quickly and people were looking for 2XL as well. Mary Ann will do an inventory of the shirts left over and will put them in the third floor of the Texier House along with the box of masks and the remaining hand sanitizers for next year.

MEDIANS

Pete Martino has suggested that flowers be planted around the cherry trees on the medians with water. The cost would come out of T&B and the DPW would plant them. Suggestion of 6 Vinca plants per area. Vinca is hardy and deer resistant. Malangas has been contacted and gave a price of \$900 for 300 plants. Planting should not start until at least the third week of May to be safe from cold weather.

Terry Defilippis mentioned that whatever planting is done on the ends of the medians should be consistent for the best look.

MAY PLANTING

Planting scheduled for Wednesday, May 12th with a rain date of Thursday. Art has turned the soil for planting and Phyllis Juetter asked if he could do it one more time before the 12th. Vonnice indicated that flowers are in short demand this year and availability may be limited through May.

VILLAGE GREEN

Matt has 40 Cana Lilly bulbs that he would like to plant around the Tree of Lights area on the Village Green. They will grow 4-8 foot tall. They would need to be removed after mid-September. He wanted to do it on Thursday May 6th but Lindsay suggested that he wait until

after she gives her report on Thursday evening to the council and would get back to Matt on Friday. It was suggested that when the lilies are taken out, they could be replaced with Chrysanthemums for the fall.

FLAGS

There are 48 flags available for Memorial Day. They are 7 1/2 by 11 1/2. T&B can schedule some time to put the flags in the medians the week before Memorial Day and leave up until after July 4th. Suggested day would be May 24th.

BEST LAKE

Phyllis Juette suggested that we still need to discuss planting Cherry Trees in the Best Lake area. She would like to meet on Thursday May 6th with Lindsay and any T&B members available. There are also areas on Mountain Boulevard that are in need of trees as well. When the group meets on Thursday, they could take a look at that area as well.

EAST END FIREHOUSE

The East End Firehouse doors needs painting. Not sure who is responsible for upkeep but it looks pretty bad. There was a question about the status of the building which doesn't seem to get much activity.

SPRATFORD PARK

There are trees at Spratford Park that are dying or in need of attention. Two spruce trees on the ends of the Watchung sign need to be replaced. We have talked about widening the flower bed there as well.

The fence between the gas station and Spratford Park is still an eyesore. Needs to be painted or replaced. The question remains who is responsible. One option is to cover the fence on the Spratford Park side with bushes.

SOMERSET STREET

Phyllis brought up the plan to put up American Flags on the light posts on Somerset Street and extending the brackets for the larger flags. Mary Ann mentioned that the Mayor had questioned the size of the banner and that they may be too big. Need to pursue this with the Mayor and Councilmembers.

There is also discussion about a project which would include Historical Committee to have banners made to honor veterans from town. Several towns are doing this as fundraiser including North Plainfield. This project may include the Boy Scouts as well. These banners would also determine the size for flags on the posts as Charlie Gunther indicated that once the posts are adjusted it will be difficult to change them again.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARY ANN WEBER