

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Phyllis Juetter
Vonnie Mott
Sondi Epstein
Mary Ann Weber
Catherine Leigh
Gail Tafari
Terri Defillips

Minutes from last meeting approved.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS:

Phyllis thanked everyone who worked on the new fence decorations. And a thank you to the DPW and Pete Martino who also helped. Everyone likes that fresh garland look which was purchased at Malanga's. Plan to do that again next year. She mentioned the tree of lights and the deer that were donated by a resident.

For the Tree of Lights, suggestions were made to redo the strings of lights differently next year. Perhaps the strings could be wrapped rather than draped on the tree for a better look. During the Tree of Lights ceremony, perhaps some temporary lighting could be put on the perimeter to avoid any accidents. It is extremely dark there and there were a great of people, dogs, carriages etc. in attendance.

Gail mentioned putting up light poles similar to the ones down Somerset Street. Sondi stated that she prefers the amber bulbs to the current white bulbs in the light poles as they are extremely bright.

Since there is electricity at Best Lake, perhaps we can put some lights over there for the holidays. Red and white like the Tree of Lights.

Phyllis said that she anticipates that our budget will be \$5,000 again for 2022. Some of the decorations that she would like to see some of the budget used for would be holiday lights on Stirling Road and possibly some flood lights to light up the trees for the holidays.

Everyone agreed how nice Wilson Memorial looks with the small lighted trees around the perimeter.

Gail questioned if all the snowflakes light up on Somerset Street. There may be some that do not light and PSE&G needs to be contacted to correct that on the poles.

OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:

There is now a Watchung Foundation where people can donate specifically for Traffic and Beautification efforts. Need to get the word out that this is available and hopefully there will be a mention on the town website.

Phyllis said she is getting in contact with Seth Alexander to design a banner for the light poles on Somerset Street once the holiday banners come down. She would like the banner to include a bear, deer, Watchung symbol, Indian, settler and the lakes. Just some ideas for a new banner. May design like a patchwork quilt or a coat of arms.

For 2022, one of the projects that may be addressed are the Watchung signs entering town. They are very high and perhaps we can put flower boxes under them with Junipers and other small bushes that can sustain themselves without routine watering. Catherine suggested a decorative rock like the one at Best Lake. There may be some issues about safety and maintenance. Need to look into this further.

The Council members are looking into what can be done about the trucks coming down Hillcrest Road. Another recent accident has occurred with further damage to property.

We may want to look into Best Lake and possibly some more trees over there. The problem is the wetness of the area and what will grow there. Perhaps some more picnic tables there would attract more use of the area. Perhaps picnic tables in the back of the library.

How about fireworks for July 4th or maybe a town picnic with fireworks.

Vonnie mentioned that the Art Center had their first event in some time last Saturday with a very good turnout.

Phyllis mentioned that she got an email from a resident complimenting her on the holiday banners and how nice they looked.

Goal is to try keep up the historical look to the town.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Weber