

TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION

MINUTES

February 21, 2022

ATTENDEES

Phyllis Juetter, Chair
Mary Ann Weber
Vonnie Mott
Sondi Epstein
Gail Tafaro
Terri DeFillips
Catherine Leigh
Kim DiDonato
Christine Ead, Liaison

Minutes from the January 17, 2022 meeting approved.

OPERATION PRIDE

Linda Monetti will let Phyllis know the date for Operation Pride which is usually one week before baseball opening day. Suggestion has been made to order reflective vests rather than shirts. We still have a box of shirts up in the Texier House. We should use those up before purchasing vests. There is hand sanitizer and masks in the box as well. Phyllis is going to ask Arthur where our grabbers are and possibly order more. Mary Ann usually purchases and donates the water.

SCARECROW STROLL

Information has been sent to all the committee members. Mary Ann and Gail have both been in touch with Linda Monetti to involve the Recreation Commission. Discussion about where to display the scarecrows determined that the best place would be the Village Green. Further discussion suggested that since the Harvest Festival is October 22nd, discussion focused on using the fencing at Mobus Field in time for the Harvest Festival. We could have judging and prizes provided by the members of the Recreation Commission the day of the Harvest Festival. Need to create a flyer and get it out through the schools, on the boro website and set up a registration link. The scarecrows would need to be up one week prior to the harvest festival to give us time to see how many and where they should be displayed. It was determined that the scarecrows do not have to be typical scarecrows but could be theme based such as Star Wars, Disney, etc. We could involve Historical and/or the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts but that may be too many people involved. This project still needs to be presented to the Council for final approval.

BANNERS

Phyllis reported that Seth Alexander added Eagles to the banner that he created. Everyone likes the proposed banner. Wording for the banner was discussed and it was determined that the wording should be Welcome to Historical Watchung.

Christine reported that there is a committee working on the Veteran banners. The first round of banners would be 40-50 max. The photo would be black and white and could have a color background. The veterans would include Army, Navy, Marine Corps. Merchant Marines. Christine suggested that they

may have one banner listing current workers or volunteers that have served. Some committee members thought the workers in town that have served should have their own banner. The priority list was presented to the committee members. The list indicated that currently active serving military personnel do not qualify for a banner. The Committee disagreed with that suggestion and indicated that they would like to see current military included. The banners would be up twice a year May and November.

SPRATFORD PARK

Terri is working on getting professional suggestions for Spratford Park. She may in touch with Rutgers to see if they will come out and make suggestions. The goal is to plant bushes along the fence between the Park and the gas station which looks very run down. The trees behind the Watchung sign are dying or dead and need to be replaced. A suggestion was made for Little Giant Arborvitae. It was also mentioned that the flags need to be replaced as the ones there are faded and in disrepair. Christine mentioned that the Boro is getting a chipper and all the dead trees will be removed from Spratford Park, Texier House and as needed.

OTHER CONCERNS

Phyllis mentioned that she would still like to have bushes placed under the Watchung signs and suggested Juniper bushes, possible 6 of them, because they are hardy and will not need watering.

Sondi mentioned that two Ash trees fell on Valley Road and the issue needs to be addressed. She suggested that the Boro should contact the County to deal with the trees. If the Ash trees are dying, there are going to be issues with wires down and traffic hazards. She also mentioned that there was a resident on Glen Eagles that brought in a large load of dirt and she questioned if the dirt had been cleaned. Christine mentioned that a new Boro engineer has been hired two days a week and this would fall under his responsibility. Sondi asked Christine to bring this to the attention of the Boro officials.

Gail has been in touch with Linda Monetti about the holiday decorations for the Village Green. Linda did say there is an application to display religious decorations but she did not know if anyone that is responsible for where they are placed.

Catherine indicated that walking on Hillcrest Road is still an issue. The branches are just too far into the street to get the County equipment close to the curb. She mentioned that Pre-COVID the DPW had cut the branches but it has not been done since.

Warren has a group that sells flags as a fundraiser for 9-11. This may be a good project for the Boy Scouts.

Next meeting is March 14th. Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Weber

