

## **TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION**

### **MINUTES**

**April 11, 2022**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Phyllis Juetter, Chair  
Mary Ann Weber  
Vonnie Mott  
Sondi Epstein  
Gail Tafaro  
Catherine Leigh  
Maureen Hemsworth  
Rachel Funcheon  
Christine Ead, Liaison

Minutes from the March 14, 2022 meeting approved.

#### **BANNERS**

The Watchung banners have been installed. Everyone very positive about them. We need to look into a different banner for the alternate poles, perhaps American Flags. The empty poles look funny with the brackets on them but no flag on them.

#### **SPRATFORD PARK**

Christine Ead reported that the dead trees at Spratford Park are on the schedule to be cut down subject to County schedule and weather conditions. It has been determined that the fence between the gas station and Spratford Park is owned by the gas station. A letter is being sent to the owners about the condition of the fence.

Terry Defilipis reported that a representative from Rutgers is scheduled to meet with her on April 30, 2022 at 4 p.m. to give suggestions about plantings for the park. All invited to attend.

#### **MEDIANS**

When sprinklers are installed on the first median, all sprinkler heads will be reinstalled on all medians and tested to make sure they are all working after the storm damage. There are plans to pave the circle and Somerset Street. Paving is subject to County schedule and weather conditions. Expect delays. Sondi Epstein mentioned that the trees on the median by the Blue Star Memorial are looking a little sad and need to be fertilized.

#### **OPERATION PRIDE**

We are prepared for Operation Pride on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We should get there by 9. Scheduled for 10-Noon. Mary Ann has ordered shirts through Deblyn Screenprinters. We have masks, hand sanitizer, shirts. Mary Ann will donate cases of water. Need tables for Operation Pride and a table for Environmental.

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Rachel Funcheon reported that on April 23rd during Operation Pride, the Environmental commission will give out tree saplings and information. There is also a project scheduled for plantings at Best Lake spearheaded by Doug Speeney to plant 6 big trees by the brook to help restore the stream, seedlings and other plants including milkweed, starting at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

#### **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL**

Christine Ead reported that she and Jim Damato have been talking about upgrading the Blue Star Memorial. Vonnie Mott mentioned that the Blue Star Memorial is a project of the Garden Club and they need to be kept in the loop about any alterations or improvements. The plan is to upgrade the star, new edging for the star, remove overgrowth, and plant colorful flowers. The Garden Club ladies will be consulted on what plants should be planted.

#### **SCARECROW STROLL**

Gail Tafaro and Christine Ead are working to put a package together for the stroll. Shooting for April 21<sup>st</sup> agenda for Council discussion and approval. They are in contact with George Alexis, Principal at Valley View. Other organizations that can get involved would be Chamber of Commerce, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Historical. Will need guidelines for scarecrow appropriate decorations and do's and don'ts such as no guns, etc.

#### **MAY PLANTING**

Tentative date for planting is May 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday. Garden Club is buying flowers for the triangle that they support. Ordering Begonias or Zinnias.

#### **OTHER CONCERNS**

The fountains in Watchung Lake are damaged and the parts are on backorder. Suggestion has been made that the lights when operational should be red, white and blue.

We still need a plan to plant under the new Watchung signs. Planting suggestions are two bushes around each base such as Juniper bushes. May be rocky for planting. Need to look into this further.

Gail Tafaro looking into how to set up religious decorations for the holidays. May want to relook at the setup for next year. Christine Ead suggested that the lighted deer may look better at the Texier House instead of the Village Green.

Christine reported that the playground equipment at Mobus is in the process of being replaced. \$500,000 is being allocated and hopefully there will be some reimbursement through FEMA. The old equipment cannot be used due to insurance issues. The basketball courts need resurfacing and the tennis courts as well. When the tennis courts are resurfaced, they will be lined for pickleball.

Next meeting is May 9, 2022 7:30 pm. At Boro Hall

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Weber