

## **TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION**

### **MINUTES**

**May 9, 2022**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Phyllis Juetter, Chair  
Mary Ann Weber  
Terri DeFilipis  
Sondi Epstein  
Kim DiDonato  
Matt Murphy  
Gail Tafaro  
Catherine Leigh  
Christine Ead, Liaison

Minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting approved.

#### **MAY PLANTING**

We have a tentative date of May 18<sup>th</sup> to plant however, the sprinkler heads are damaged and need to be repaired prior to planting. The County needs to schedule a time to make the repairs. The lines have been cut as well and need repair. When this is done, the triangles need to be rototilled in preparation for planting. Will wait for approval to plant. Steve Black has the plants on hold until we are ready to purchase.

The Garden Club triangle got hit hard with rocks and macadam pieces from the storm. The triangle needs to be cleaned out, rototilled and will need top soil before planting flowers.

Christine Ead reported that the triangle by Hillcrest Road would be handled by the DPW.

#### **SPRATFORD PARK**

The new trees at Spratford Park look very nice. Terry Defilipis reported that she met with a representative from Rutgers but has not yet heard back from him with his suggestions for plants. Need to extend the garden area and raise it up on the ends.

#### **MEDIANS**

The Medians are also on hold until the repairs are done. The ends of medians need some annuals for a splash of color and will need mulch after flowers are planted. May also need to replace some of the grasses on the ends of the medians and add more Gold Mop Cypress that also got ruined in the storm.

#### **VILLAGE SQUARE**

Matt Murphy reported that he has dug up the canna lily bulbs that were planted last year. Some are rotted and some may grow as they roots on them but he is unsure. 19 of the 24 may still be good but 5 are definitely unusable. He suggested purchasing new bulbs from Home Depot at \$3 per bulb or a total of \$75 to replace all the bulbs. The committee agreed that purchasing new bulbs was the better option and Christine Ead notified Bill Hance of the intended purchase.

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.

#### **BEST LAKE**

Phyllis Juette mentioned that we still need a sign to identify Best Lake. She also said that she would like to see a flag pole installed with an American Flag at Best Lake on the eastbound side of the lake where there is electricity to light the flag at night. Terri DeFilipis mentioned that she had just had one installed on her property for \$1,800.

Also discussed was putting the lighted deer that were in the Village Square last holiday season over at Best Lake this year. There is electricity on the east side of the lake and it would light up that area very nicely and would be highlighted rather than just place on the Village Square. Committee was in agreement.

After budget discussion, showing that our budget of \$5,000 with expenditures of \$1,500 for the banners, \$800 for flowers, leaves up \$2,700 for the balance of the year. Anticipated expenses would be Halloween and holiday decorations. Mary Ann brought up the possible purchase of additional banners for the other flag poles as an expenditure this year but the consensus of the group was to purchase the flag pole and leave the banners/poles on Somerset Street as is for this year.

#### **SCARECROW STROLL**

Traffic and Beautification needs to submit a scarecrow. Phyllis suggested having the scarecrow have a flowerpot hat. Need to think about how we want to decorate our scarecrow. Gail is working on meeting with the schools and groups to participate. We have 42 poles at the Village Square for entries.

Gail also mentioned that Mr. Murphy is heading up a youth group that may want to design a mural or perhaps permanent paint on sidewalks. Discussed possibly using the fence at Spratford Park for this project.

#### **WATCHUNG SIGNS**

There are six signs at the entrances to Watchung. There is a plan being developed to put flower boxes at the bottom of the signs attached to the posts so there can be flowers/shrubs planted without worrying about weeds and grass overtaking the plantings and less maintenance. There was also discussion about possibly lowering the signs as they are extremely high in everyone's opinion. Further ideas can be discussed when the planter idea is available for review.

#### **OTHER CONCERNS**

Christine Ead mentioned that the DPW is looking for summer help at \$20 per hour. Matt Murphy indicated that he may be interested in applying.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Weber