

STONINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Draft Special Meeting

April 22, 2024

Stonington Human Services

Members present: Carole Nossek, Julie Holland, Cynthia Moore, Eric Beverly

Absent: Stacy Cassata, Kit Hartford, and Ann Marie Castagno-Clark

Guest: Megan Kacenski

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. Co-Chair Carole Nossek called meeting to order at 4:34PM
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2024
 - a. Motion made by Cynthia Moore; seconded by Eric Beverly; motion approved and carried.
- 4) New Business
 - a. Correspondence
 - i. Email Gina Johnston, Davis Standard confirming Earth Day volunteer projects
 - ii. Email from Ann Marie Houle, Stonington High School, Confirming Arbor Day volunteer tree planting
 - iii. Email from Stacy Haskel town hall regarding Stonington Route 1 Island Project by Buzzi Memorials, stating permit to the state in progress for future tree plantings on this property.
 - iv. Holland announced she has been in communication with Charter Oak Credit Union. They would like to do a Volunteer Day for May or June.
 - b. Stonington Island/by Buzzi Memorial /Trees
 - i. Discussion of funding up to 6 new trees in this area once the town gets approval from the state. Holland mentioned that the committee would need to look into another grant to support the new trees or have another fundraiser in the summer. Holland added the current budget for 2024-2025 does not have funds available but didn't see a problem raising the necessary funds for a potential planting in the Fall. Discussion of installing a small pollinating garden under the Historic Stonington Sign if approved by the state.
 - c. Fundraising Update
 - i. Nossek announced that \$70 was collected from the watering can fundraiser. Donation watering cans are set up at Hamms and Evans Mobile in Downtown Pawcatuck and Flemings Feed in Stonington.

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Cassata who was unable to attend meeting relayed message that the rain barrel fundraiser has started and will run until June 16th. Pick up of the rain barrels is scheduled for June 25th from 5-7pm at Human Services. Holland announced that the Grey Sail fundraiser is Wed April 27th from 5-7:30PM. Holland announced that this years Spring Fest is Saturday May 4th at Human Services. The committee will be setting up a planting activity for families and would be recruiting new volunteers. Cynthia Moore volunteered to run the table at the event.

- d. Summer Plantings Check list/Budget
 - i. Nossek went over the summer planting checklist and budget with committee members and asked the work be completed for Memorial Day weekend.

5) Old Business

- a. Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project/Plantings
 - i. Holland announced that she requested a meeting with DPW and the electrician to go over work completed in Downtown Pawcatuck. She will report back to committee next month.
- b. Update on Earth Day and Arbor Day Events
 - i. Holland announced that Earth Day and Arbor Day Events were a complete success. Davis Standard volunteers collected over 1000 pounds of garbage throughout Stonington. Volunteers from Davis Standard also did a spring clean up of The West Vine St Sensory Garden and planted over 25 Colorado spruce trees. Holland continued that on Arbor Day Stonington High School volunteers planted over 75 trees in Spellman Park. Lastly the Earth Day challenge for residents also has been doing very well. Many residents have been collecting garbage in their neighborhoods or in local parks and wetlands and reporting back to Human Services Director Leanne Theodore. Community Volunteer Megan Kacenski announced that Bartlett Tree Experts will be donating 100 redbud saplings that the committee can give out to the community at Stonington Human Services Spring Fest scheduled for May 4th.
- c. Wamphassuc Rd Cul-De-Sac
 - i. Holland announced the town would allow tree planting in the cul-de-sac of Wamphassuc Rd once permits are done. Holland suggested the committee purchase one tree and ask the neighbors in this area if they would like to donate funds to plant additional trees. Volunteer Kacenski volunteered to research what native trees would be best in this area.
- d. Stonington Transfer Station - Future Garden Installation
 - i. Carole Nossek announced that she has been in communication with members of the Department of Public Works and the Transfer Station to go over the plant selection and the size of the garden to be installed. Nossek also announced that she would be submitting a

grant to the Stonington Garden Club. Nosseck also stated that the town will be putting up new signs at the transfer station.

- ii. Holland announced that DPW planted the 6 native trees at The Water pollution property off Mary Hall Road in Pawcatuck. These trees were funded by a grant from The Stonington Rotary Club. Also, the Stonington Dept of Public Works would be working on the Tree project at Stonington Human Services this spring and fall. Megan Kacenski announced that one tree at The Stonington Police Dept and another tree along Spellman Drive would need to be replaced. Holland volunteered to contact SPD and Stonington Parks and Recreation if they could fund the new trees to be replaced.

6) Meeting Adjourned at 5.30PM

- a. Motion made by Cindy Moore; seconded by Eric Beverly; motion approved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland
Committee Member