

STONINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

July 17, 2023

Stonington Police Department

Approved 

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

Members Absent: Ann Marie Castagno-Clark and Stacy Cassata

Guests: Jordan Kenyon, Hannah Creeley Cedermark, and Christopher Smith

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. Co-Chair Carole Nossek called meeting to order at 5:00PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of minutes May 15, 2023
 - a. Motion made by Julie Holland; seconded by Eric Beverly; motion approved and carried.
- 4) New Business
 - a. Correspondence
 - i. Email from Adrian Massengale (Stonington High School) Asking about volunteer opportunities for his class and team.
 - ii. Email from Jennifer Lacker(Bike Stonington)updates on committees mural projects for bike racks and future committee support.
 - iii. Email from Stonington resident Susan O'Donnell asking for volunteer opportunities to help water trees that were just planted.
 - iv. Email from Christopher Smith(EDC) regarding future collaboration with SBC on developing a future Stonington Gateway Project.
 - v. Email from Stonington resident Patty Luxton regarding a cul-de-sac in front of her property that she would like the committee to consider for a future landscape project.
 - vi. Email from Stonington resident Adam Tutanota regarding volunteering to water planters in downtown Pawcatuck.
 - vii. Email from Stonington resident Stuart Schwartzstein asking for more information regarding the Stonington Tree Project and its funding.
 - b. 2023-2024 Budget Discussion
 - i. Julie Holland went over Draft Budget for 2023-2024 which includes to continue to maintain and plant all current flowering planters, gardens, and memorials in Stonington. The budget includes mulching and plant replacements for the Route 1 Stonington and Willow St, Mystic Island gateway Gardens. The Draft also included a total of 9 future tree plantings in Spellman Park and at The Stonington Water Pollution Property for Fall 2023. Holland announced the town will be funding the future tree project at Stonington Human Services which will be located along the dirt parking lot and the open green space. The project will include 15 Native trees.

- c. 2023-2024 Future Projects Discussion
 - i. Eric Beverly discussed saving funding to relandscape the gateway of Donahue Park after lighting project is complete along the pathway. Holland discussed the purchase of larger pots for 3 areas in Mystic.
- d. EDC Support/ Gateways in Stonington
 - i. Christopher Smith and Hannah Cedermark of The Stonington Economic Development Committee discussed collaborating with SBC on possibly working on a plan together to improve the gateways in Stonington to include the Exits 90 and 91 in Mystic and Stonington. The concept discussed is to make a more welcoming entrance into both historic areas. Members discussed having a liaison from both committees to attend each other meetings to work on this potential project and to be able to report back. Holland suggested to EDC members present to first take photos of the areas in discussion and bring to the town to first establish what is state and what is town property. Committee members discussed options of future signage and to continue the conversation of adding more pollinating landscaped gateways to Stonington. Committee members discussed other cultural areas in Stonington that could use improvements in the future to their signage and landscaping.
- e. Bike Stonington Support
 - i. Tabled
- f. Stonington Landmarks and Memorials Discussion
 - i. Kit Hartford shared a packet for committee members of photos of the many current landmarks and memorials in Stonington. Committee. Photos will be added to packet for future meetings to discuss future projects. Holland encouraged committee members to continue to take photos that can be added to the list.
- g. 2023-2024 Fall Tree Plantings

Holland announced there are several tree plantings scheduled for the fall including Spellman Park, Stonington Water Pollution Property and Human Services. Holland is working alongside Public Works and town officials in planning and consulting with Licensed and Certified Arborist Megan Kacenski on selection of trees.
- h. Future Fundraisers/ Grant Opportunities
 - i. Updates on fundraisers and donations. The committee received a \$1,000 donation from Stonington resident Lynn Young toward new trees in Stonington. Carole Nossek and Julie Holland donated \$ 285.00 each toward two trees at The New Veterans Memorial. Nossek announced she will be donating a pink native tree to be planted by the softball field in Spellman Park. The committee received \$110 from Big Y Marketplace from the recycled bag fundraiser. The Rain Barrell Fundraiser brought in \$360 to future pollinating gardens. The Stonington Commission on Aging donated \$600 toward the

plantings at The New Veterans Memorial. Holland thanked Stacy Cassata and Carole Nossek for their work in fundraising this year.

5) Old Business

- a. Update on Spring Tree Plantings
 - i. Nossek and Holland announced that the Spring Tree Plantings went very well and that the Stonington Public Works Department was doing a great job keeping all the trees watered this summer. Holland shared photos with the group of all the trees planted this past spring.
- b. Update on Tree Planting Initiative
 - i. Tabled
- c. Update on Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project
 - i. Holland announced the Downtown Pawcatuck Lighting Project was unanimously approved by the BOF. Work on the lighting project should begin this summer and continue into the fall.
- d. Comments from the public
 - i. Volunteer and landscaper Jordan Kenyon told the committee he would be happy to help the committee with any future projects. Holland asked for Kenyon to support areas along Route 1 in Mystic. Holland will be in communication with Kenyon and will report back to committee.

6) Meeting Adjourned at 6:30PM

- a. Motion made by Eric Beverly; 2nd by Holland, motion approved and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Holland
Committee Member

Stacy Cassata

9/18/2023

Julie Holland

9/18/2023