

SCITUATE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 20, 2018

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present were D. Bangert, K. McCormack, L. Dienel, M. Tennaro, C. Dipesa, M. Palleiko, D. Litchfield.
- II. **STANDING REPORTS**
 - A. **Treasurer:** C. Dipesa reported the balance is unchanged at \$15,200 with \$4400 for the remainder of maintenance contract.
 - B. **Railroad Crossing Islands**
 - a. Contractor B. Morse was present to discuss changes to the RFQ for RRIsland maintenance for FY 2019. Mulch vs. compost: mulch remains darker, looks more attractive in contrast to plants, but compost would be healthier. Weeds can be a problem in compost, so need to get good quality. D. Litchfield recommended quality of JFPrice compost in South Weymouth, who charges \$24/cu.yd. With haulage, Morse said cost would be about same as mulch. He removes some mulch every year to prevent build up, reduce water runoff. It's important to him that the islands look good.
 - b. Morse recommended soil tests since none had been done since planting 10 years ago, taking samples from each large island (2 per intersection) rather than combining samples at each intersection.
 - C. **Adopt-a-Lots:** The Harbormaster's Island has been severely washed out by overwash from March nor'easters. Plants planted in the fall have not developed roots and thus did not hold the soil. B. Morse provided a proposal to add soil (composted loam mix), amend it with super phosphate, gypsum and cow manure. He recommended this be done as soon as weather permits since roots are exposed. **MOTION:** M. Palleiko made a motion to approve Morse proposal #839 to repair damage to the Harbormaster's Adopt-a-Lot pending soil test for \$426. Seconded by K. McCormack. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Budget Process Update:** Advisory Board and BOS were very supportive of our volunteers and goals. Our request for FY 2019 was \$23,650, a 10% increase. We have been granted \$22,650 by the Town Administrator.
 - B. **North Scituate-3A Project:** The dilapidated sign at the HTBailey intersection is owned by the Chamber of Commerce. Town Accountant N. Holt advised it would not be within our mission to spend funds on new sign nor would it be within our budget. Planning and Economic Development Boards are also interested in improving the sign and the 3A gateway. Director B. Washburn invited Beautification to participate in discussions about

improvements. C. Dipesa volunteered to represent Beautification's interest on these boards.

- C. Caretaker Recognition:** Rather than giving volunteers a gift or holding an event, D. Litchfield suggested placing signs in Adopt-a-Lots recognizing each Caretaker by name. He believes this will result in better maintenance, and also raise awareness of Beautification and what it does. He further suggested cost of signs could be covered by fundraising, which would be managed by a separate committee. Discussion of marketing Beautification to attract volunteers ensued, including suggestions that we give awards for attractive gardens, plantings front doors, etc. or conduct competitions, i.e. who can grow biggest sunflowers? Also we should raise our profile on Facebook with more frequent postings, helping us find a volunteer for Elephant Fountain. **MOTION:** D. Litchfield made a motion to canvass caretakers to get their opinion about having signs in their Adopt-a-Lot identifying them as the Caretaker. Seconded by C. Dipesa. All voted in favor. Motion carried. The Chairman will email the Caretakers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adopt-a-Lot Renovations:** The Elephant Fountain garden was planted 10 years ago and plantings need dividing and thinning. The same is true for the RRCrossing Islands. D. Litchfield asserted costs for labor and plantings needed to rejuvenate these islands could be borne by businesses, which would be glad to do it if allowed to have their businesses advertised in the islands. Dissenters felt this would result in lack of uniformity in the RR islands and signs would detract from the plantings. Guidelines could be imposed, but then Beautification would become enforcers. Chairman will research whether having commercial caretakers is an option for Beautification islands.
- B. Other:** M. Palleiko made the point that Greenbush commercial area is burgeoning and urged the Commission to pay attention to changes and improvements going on there to ensure the area will be an attractive gateway to Scituate.

V. NOTES: Reminder that Town Meeting is Monday April 9th at 7:00pm.

VI. MINUTES: MOTION: M. Tennaro made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018 as amended. Second by K. McCormack. All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: M. Palleiko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. Second by D. Litchfield. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes approved 4/17/2018

Respectfully submitted by M. Tennaro and D. Bangert