

SCITUATE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
Scituate Maritime Center

I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. In attendance: D.Bangert, M.Tennaro, A.McVeigh, A.Steele, and J. McLaughlin. Absent: L. Hall, K.McCormack, L. Dienel, and M. Palleiko.

II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – Doug Litchfield and Carolyn DiPesa introduced themselves and talked about their reasons for volunteering for Beautification and their skills. Carolyn, an accountant, will take over the Treasurer's Report and Doug, who wants to support the Adopt-a-Lot Program, will work with our Caretakers and help with recruitment.

III. STANDING REPORTS

- A. Treasurer - Bookkeeper** - The FY 18 Budget is \$21, 500. After 2 payments to Morse Landscaping as per our contract, our current balance stands at \$ 19,300.
- B. Railroad Crossing Islands** – Both Leslie and Kathy are absent. No report.
- C. Merchant Coordinators** – Andrea reported the final tally of merchants who took advantage of our voucher program: 40 in Scituate Harbor, 25 in North Scituate, 6 in Greenbush, totaling 71 vouchers = \$3550.
- D. Adopt-a-Lots** – Donna reported that we had good weather for our gardens this summer, with occasional rainfall and only two 3-day periods over 90. However, it has been “abnormally dry” since mid-August and some trees and shrubs are showing early leaf drop. We had 27 Caretakers maintaining 22 Adopt-a-Lots this summer, including one new Caretaker for #7, Booth Hill at Country Way. One island at Town Hall Entrance from First Parish was lost due to a new traffic pattern for the new middle school. (Lighthouse Point is counted as one AaL with one Caretaker, even though it is comprised of several beds and maintained by a group of residents.) Caretakers purchased \$1890.30 of plants and materials and each was offered Plant Magic, an organic soil enhancer, at a cost of \$330.00 (\$15.00 each). Thus, the total outlay for volunteer-maintained AaL's was \$2220.30. Donna thanked all the Caretakers for their dedication to planting, weeding and watering the beautiful flowers that we enjoy around Town.
- E. IT/Web Manager** - Anne reported that photos of the volunteers in their Adopt-a-Lots get a good response. She recommended making requests for additional volunteer help as separate posts, instead of attaching them to photos.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Annual Project – Brookside Phase 2** – The replanting of Brookside was completed by Peter Wells' company, President Landscaping, after the Minor Activities Permit was received from Conservation at the end of June. Originally expected to be completed last fall, the project was put off until spring due to the drought. Donna watered through the summer but the soil was difficult to hydrate. Doug said adding Dawn to the water would enable it to penetrate the soil rather than run off.

- B. Harbormaster's Renovation – Donna reported that the proposal accepted at the June meeting for renovating the northern end of the Harbormaster's garden was planted by Morse Landscaping in June. Mary took over watering it, and Donna expressed her gratitude for being relieved of that duty. The southern end of the garden had been replanted last summer. Mary Anne took over its care this year and once again the Harbormaster's Island greeted people on the Harborwalk with beautiful garden.
- C. Rainwater Retention Project – We requested data from the summer interns on how many times they fill the tank for watering the Railroad Crossing islands in order to calculate how much water is needed to water them, so that we can determine how large the retention tank should be. However, their information is incomplete.
- D. Other – There was no other old business.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Renovate AaL #31 – Branch-Curtis-Country Way – Donna asked the Commission to consider redesigning this Adopt-a-Lot. It has wonderful plant material that blooms colorfully all summer, but most of it grows too tall for traffic safety and keeping it lower means cutting off the blooms. She suggested planning for a new design begin now rather than waiting for next spring, when we are so busy. Discussion supported the conclusion that the plants should be replaced with lower-growing material.

MOTION: To redesign and renovate Adopt-a-Lot #31 at Branch-Curtis-Country Way, made by Andrea, seconded by Anne. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Mary and Doug volunteered to work together to redesign the garden.

- B. FY 19 Budget Assignments – Commissioners were asked to review the goals in FY18 Budget to update them for next year and to consider their accomplishments and also any new goals they want to propose for the Commission to undertake. They are asked to write them out in the format we have been using.
- C. Other – Carolyn asked about the intersection of Henry Turner Bailey and 3A where a large Chamber of Commerce sign has been deteriorating for years and the grassy area with a flagpole across from it also looks ragged. It was agreed that the intersection is an unsightly entrance to the Town. She will investigate ownership of the land and responsibility for the sign and flagpole.

VI. Chair Notes – There were no notes.

VII. Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the June 2017 meeting as written, made by Andrea, seconded by Doug. All voted in favor; motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:25, made by John, seconded by Mary. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Minutes approved October 17, 2017
Respectfully submitted by D. Bangert