

SCITUATE BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

MINUTES FROM MEETING JUNE 21, 2016

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. In attendance:
D.Bangert, M.Tennaro, A.Steele, L.Hall, J.McLaughlin, T.McLaughlin,
K.McCormack, M.A.Palleiko

- II. **STANDING REPORTS - End of Year Summary**
 - A. Railroad Crossing Islands
 - B. Merchant Coordinators
*See attached #1
 - C. Adopt-a-Lot
*See attached #2
 - D. IT/Web Manager
*See attached #3
 - E. Treasurer
Current Budget Balance Available: \$2002.62, with the possibility of an additional \$200
from the Merchants program.
BC Trust Fund Balance: \$5598.93

- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Education Outreach update
M.Tennaro reported that she met with Donna Moffet, STEM coordinator for the Scituate schools K-6, and they discussed how the BC could be involved in the science curriculum regarding litter, with a culmination corresponding with the 50th anniversary of Ship Shape Day. There will be summer meetings with selected students to further this goal. She also met with the GO GREEN founders at Jenkins to learn about this program and how it would tie into the proposed ideas from the STEM team.
 - B. Trash Cans
The trash/recycling cans have been purchased by the BC and will be placed on the Driftway at a selected spot.
 - C. SSD Grabbers
A.Steele reported that there is \$335.05 in the BC special account. Up to 15 new grabbers will be purchased with these funds to be used for SSD next year.
 - D. AaL Signs
J. and T.McLaughlin reported that there are at least 17 signs with various issues of rust and they discussed the possibility of ordering new signs and having them partially hand-painted with reflective paint.
MOTION: L.Hall made a motion to purchase 20 new signs and any necessary paint supplies for the Adopt-a-lots. Seconded by A.Steele. All in favor.
 - E. Annual Project

The BC perused 3 proposals that were submitted by landscapers to address the Brookside and Harbormaster areas. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to accept the Peter Wells proposal, Presidents Landscape and Design, Inc.

MOTION: L.Hall made a motion to accept the proposal from PL&D, Inc. regarding the plantings for the Harbormaster and Brookside areas for a total of \$1800. Clean up of the areas to be completed now and plantings for Brookside only to be postponed until the fall. Seconded by A.Steele. All in favor.

F. Newsletter

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that instead of creating a newsletter, at this time D.Bangert would instead send an email to all caretakers of the Adopt-a-lots encouraging them to send a photo of their garden and themselves which will hopefully be featured in an August issue of the *Scituate Mariner*, in order to highlight their hard work in maintaining these gardens.

MOTION: J.McLaughlin made a motion to table the Newsletter until the fall. Seconded by M.Tennaro. All in favor.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elect Officers

MOTION: A.Steele made a motion to elect new officers at the September meeting. Seconded by M.A.Palleiko. All in favor.

V. CHAIR NOTES

D.Bangert reported that FoxTV will be filming in Scituate and hopes that they will include a segment on the BC.

VI. MINUTES - May 2016

MOTION: L.Hall made a motion to accept the minutes as recorded. Seconded by K.McCormack. All in favor.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: J.McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Seconded by L.Hall All in favor. The next meeting will be September 20, 2016.

Minutes approved _____
Respectfully submitted, Mary Tennaro

Attachment #1

2016 Merchant Program

- Visited every merchant in Scituate Harbor (SH), North Scituate (NS) and for the first time merchants in the Greenbush Commercial district (GB) to educate about the program and alert merchants to the need to ensure plantings are in compliance with State and Federal regulations for traffic safety and accessibility for people with disabilities and to solicit their participation.
- 33 merchants in Scituate Harbor, 24 merchants in North Scituate and 5 merchants in the Greenbush district area redeemed vouchers at R&C Farms and we are still waiting for the number of merchant vouchers redeemed at Hill Billy Acres through Doug Litchfield.
- Vouchers were valid this year from May 11th, 2016 to June 15th, 2016 and each voucher was for \$50 to be used for plantings only. The vouchers expiration date changed to June 15th from previous years dates of June 30th to provide more time for the end of the fiscal year accounting.
- Photos of merchant displays will be taken for posting on our website and Facebook pages.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Steele and Mary Anne Palleiko

Attachment #2

END OF YEAR SUMMARY FY 2015-2016

ADOPT-A-LOTS

We head into the growing season of 2016 with 27 entities identified as Adopt-a-Lots. Of those, 3 do not have volunteers: Harbormaster's, Brookside and Country Way at Booth Hill.

The latter was temporarily given AaL status when there was a Caretaker who wanted to take care of it. She has since left, so the status of this traffic island as an AaL is not official. Problem: it lacks a convenient water source. It is a small island with blooming catmint and weeds.

The other two lots without Caretakers are both being considered for renovation. Brookside has been treated for the past 4 years for knotweed, which was believed to be completely eradicated, but one stalk has emerged this year. Will the Commission go ahead with renovation plans?

The Harbormaster's garden has lost most of its plants and is mainly a bed of mulch. Where there are plants, the plants are badly interlaced with a tall grassy weed. Proposals for renovating these two Adopt-a-Lots will be considered at this meeting.

A survey of the Adopt-a-Lots having Caretakers revealed the following:

- +Twenty AaLs have been planted with annuals and/or weeded and mulched and look tidy and colorful.

- +Four AaLs have not had any attention so far this year. One of these, at the HS sign, was believed to be slated for removal as part of changes resulting from added traffic once the new school is completed. However, Daedalus, the project manager, informed us that the Sign will not be affected. I've asked the Caretaker, Interact group at the HS, if they still want to plant flowers this year.

- +A fire hydrant was added to the Tax Office AaL, at the Stockbridge Road end. Some perennials were removed in the process.

- +Egypt Beach AaL, which was completely replanted last year, has some large empty spaces and will need additional plants at some point.

Cost of plants and materials for Caretaker's Adopt-a-Lots is estimated at \$1900, including Preen weed preventer, which was provided for 4 Adopt-a-Lots, and bagged mulch was provided for others as requested.

Town provided 6 ½ yards of mulch for 5 larger AaL's .

Looking ahead, over the summer we will have to face the removal of the traffic island at the HS Entrance at 3A. Another island will be installed, raising some issues:

- +Should we press for a plantable island with good soil included?

- +The Caretaker of the current island is elderly and may not wish to continue with a new island.

Attracting another Caretaker is not a certainty.

- +What should we do with the plantings that must be removed: 2 large Norway spruces, knockout roses and a few perennials?

The traffic islands maintained by our contractor, Bill Morse, look very nice. He plants petunias like those in the Railroad crossing Islands and they are striking. He has been offered renewal of his contract at the current cost. No response yet whether he will accept it.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Bangert

Attachment #3

Beautification Commission Web/IT Year end Summary

Over this past year I have posted photos on the Beautification Commissions Facebook Page hoping to make people more aware of the great work the Beautification Commission does. The goal is to post at least once a week showing different Adopt-A-Lots around town. The posts have been very popular usually getting 50 to 300 likes, with many people sharing the photos. I also post information on how to spot poison ivy and other helpful hints for gardeners.

Facebook was a great help in advertising Ship Shape Day and also letting people know that there are still Adopt-A-Lots available to adopt.

I also update agenda notices and meeting minutes on the town website. I have recently started to update the photos posted on the town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne McVeigh