

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

April 18, 2023

Members Present:

Violet Baldwin – Chair
Tara Cross
Paul Paleologopoulos
William Raymond
Gina Fusick
Karla Callahan
Marianne Joyce

Members Absent:

Krista Sapelli
Linda Parrotta

Also Present:

Stefanie Kesecker

Chairperson Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes-March 21, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Cross and seconded by Ms. Fusick to approve the minutes of March 21, 2023.

VOTE 6-0-1 (Joyce)

2. Barrels

Ms. Baldwin stated she had spoken to Mr. Fini and he informed her that the flowers in the barrels are starting to bud and doing well.

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and Ms. Callahan to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 7-0-0

3. Light Pole Planters

Ms. Baldwin informed the Committee that she had contacted Western Growers and the price was \$49 per basket last season and should be around the same price, or if higher not significantly so. She also spoke to Howard Rogers, DPW, and he informed her they would assist with lowering the brackets when Beautification is ready to put the baskets in place.

Motion was made by Ms. Cross and seconded by Ms. Joyce to keep this item on the agenda.

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VOTE 7-0-0

4. Anne Sullivan Memorial

Ms. Baldwin stated the Committee will do some plantings at this location. Mr. Raymond said it was too early to put out annuals, only perennials at this time. Ms. Joyce stated she had went to the location on April 17, 2023 and said the items Beautification planted from the fall are coming up, and will be fuller in a few years. She stated the southeast side gets more sun, and the other side is primarily shaded. She suggested something hardy and that doesn't need a lot of water. Ms. Joyce also suggested something with color, such as lilies. Mr. Raymond said it was better to stick with one type of plant, so they grow at the same rate and look more aesthetically pleasing. Ms. Joyce also suggested Echinacea. Ms. Baldwin stated echinacea is stalky and would need cut down. Ms. Callahan asked about the different color of hostas. Ms. Fusick stated different type of hostas grow at different rates. Ms. Baldwin suggested a combination of day lilies and hostas. Mr. Raymond said that would be fine if there is enough sun. Ms. Callahan asked about irises. Ms. Baldwin stated they require a lot of maintenance. Ms. Baldwin suggested planting around the gazebo hostas and mulch, which would be less maintenance and less costly. Ms. Baldwin stated the area gets a lot of traffic and visitors. Mr. Raymond suggested holding off on disturbing the site for about a month, to see what grows.

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and Mr. Paleologopoulos to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 7-0-0

5. Main Street Project

Last year the Beautification Committee cleaned up the Main Street area in front of Giovanni's. Ms. Baldwin met with Mr. John Decaro from Decaro Landscaping and he is going to meet her onsite at this location on April 19, 2023 to discuss suitable plants for this area. Ms. Baldwin suggested sedum, baptisia, vinca, and gold mop cypress. Ms. Baldwin stated the issue for this area is water. Decaro can use his large water tank to water the plants, and would plant them with a well around them to help keep the water in the area for the plantings. Ms. Baldwin stated she will approach CPA for the new planting project and Beautification will be responsible for the maintenance.

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and seconded by Ms. Cross.

VOTE 7-0-0

6. Correspondence

Mike Squindo, Director of Senior Center approached Ms. Baldwin about plantings in front of Senior Center. Ms. Callahan said it would depend on our funds. Ms. Baldwin stated she would approach CPA for this project. Mr. Squindo was present and stated he would also approach Friends of Senior Citizens organization to see if they would help with funding this project as well. Mr. Squindo stated they would do the maintenance once, Beautification establishes the site. Ms. Baldwin asked about water at the location and Mr. Squindo stated there was a sprinkler system.

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Mr. Squindo stated he would have the old plantings pulled prior to Beautifications' work. Mr. Raymond will complete a drawing of his idea for in front of the Senior Center. Ms. Fusick stated she felt this was a good idea and suggested a sponsor sign and possible to put pictures of the project on our website.

7. Tuckahoe

Ms. Baldwin was approached by Henry Kozloski about adding some plantings or barrels in the area where benches will be placed, in this area that is being made a green space. Ms. Baldwin stated it depends on the access to water and who would be maintaining it. Mr. Paleologopoulos stated he would like to walk the area and see it. Ms. Fusick brought up the number of people that may visit the site and possible vandalism. Ms. Baldwin stated at this time it is still rudimentary and the Committee can revisit this proposed project at a later date.

8. Letters

Ms. Callahan assisted with revising the letters to potential new sponsors for the barrel program, as well as the flyer and order form. The Committee reviewed the changes to the letters and were satisfied. Ms. Kesecker will mail the letters out this week. Mr. Raymond presented the Committee with the first sponsor for the barrel program. Ms. Kesecker will provide Ms. Baldwin with copies of the flyer and sponsor form for any Committee member who wants to pass them out. Ms. Cross will add the flyer and sponsor form to the Beautification website.

9. Federal Street

Ms. Baldwin drove by this location and stated once the weather is improved, volunteers from the Beautification Committee will go and clean the area.

Motion was made by Ms. Joyce and seconded by Ms. Cross to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 7-0-0

10. Any topics the Chair did not reasonable anticipate

There were no items

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Ms. Cross to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.