

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

June 20, 2023

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Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Krista Sapelli

Also Present:

Stefanie Kesecker  
Al Fini  
Michael Squindo

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Chairperson Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. Approval of Minutes-May 16, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Ms. Fusick to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes.

VOTE 7-0-0

2. Barrels

Ms. Baldwin stated that to date the Agawam Beautification Committee has received \$7,800 for the Adopt-a-Barrel program. All of the barrels have been placed around the Town. The Committee extended their thanks to Ms. Kesecker who drafted and sent out 304 letters to local businesses, as well as handling all the thank you letters, checks, and sponsor ledger. Ms. Baldwin stated the total number of barrels is 83. Mr. Fini provided the Committee with a list of streets where all the barrels are located. Ms. Callahan asked if the Committee would continue to sell barrels. Ms. Baldwin stated if a few more checks came in the Committee would accommodate, but that we are no longer advertising for sponsors. Ms. Baldwin stated that next year the program will expand to include more barrels and letters sent to potential sponsors will include a time frame as well as informing them their chosen locations could be guaranteed the earlier an order is placed. Mr. Fini stated the Committee would need to decide on the amount of barrels at the September meeting. He went on to say due to the cooler temperatures this year the flowers are experiencing slow growth. Ms. Baldwin stated two barrels were placed in front of the Agawam Historical Firehouse at the request of Anne Liptak, with the Agawam Historical Association, who had reached out to the Committee. Ms. Liptak stated they would take care of watering the two barrels. Mr. Fini stated white Petunias had been added to these barrels. Mr. Raymond stated the barrels in front of Giovanni's Pastry

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looked really nice. Ms. Baldwin stated Mr. Paleologopoulos had been a great assistance with placing the signs in the barrels. Ms. Joyce asked about barrels on Suffield Street. Mr. Fini stated there was a problem with insects at this location last season, which affected the flowers.

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

VOTE 7-0-0

### 3. Light Pole Planters

Ms. Baldwin informed the Committee that Howard Rogers, DPW Dept. Superintendent-Hwy/Grounds lowered the brackets 18” and 4 planters were placed on Friday, June 16, 2023. The Beautification Committee has received the bill and West Springfield will be partnering with us for the cost of two of the light pole planters.

### 4. Anne Sullivan Memorial

Ms. Baldwin informed the Committee this was a still a future project that needed completed. Mr. Raymond stated he had looked at the site and the work would be minimal, including planting a few hosta. Ms. Joyce stated she would be willing to assist on this project.

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

VOTE 7-0-0

### 5. Main Street Project

The Committee has completed this project, as well as placing barrels with the plantings. Ms. Baldwin stated the plants are doing well at this location. Different tag sale and other signs are being placed in this area, although it is against the Town ordinance. Ms. Cross and Ms. Callahan will post this on the Facebook page as well as the public channel to remind individuals that signs are prohibited.

### 6. Correspondence

Michael Squindo, Director of Agawam Senior Center was present to thank the Committee for the landscaping done in front of the Senior Center. He stated many visitors and seniors have complimented on how vibrant and nice the area now looks. Ms. Baldwin stated the staff had given great ideas and input on the design and the type of plants. Mr. Paleologopoulos asked about watering the plants and Ms. Baldwin informed him there was an irrigation and sprinkler system onsite. Ms. Baldwin stated at the back of the Senior Center there is an overgrown area that could use revitalizing. Mr. Squindo and Ms. Baldwin will work together to coordinate on this proposed new project. Ms. Baldwin will attempt to procure some funding from CPA.

Ms. Baldwin stated the front area at DPW had been cleaned and landscaped.

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Ms. Baldwin stated a few weeks back she had been part of an effort to clean up the debris at Pynchon Point. She stated several bags of trash were removed from the area, but this is a difficult spot to maintain, due to the heavy pedestrian traffic. Ms. Baldwin would like to address the issue on how to proceed at Pynchon Point at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Cross and seconded by Mr. Paleologopoulos to have Pynchon Point on the next agenda.

VOTE 7-0-0

Ms. Baldwin stated she would give an update on the budget at the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Baldwin also informed the Committee that upper and lower Federal Streets have been completed.

7. Any topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate

There were no items.

Motion was made by Ms. Joyce and seconded by Ms. Fusick to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.