

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 16, 2022

Members Present:

Violet Baldwin – Chair
Tara Marshall
Karla Callahan
William Raymond
Linda Parotta
Marianne Joyce
Gina Fusick

Members Absent:

Krista Sapelli

Also Present:

Al Fini
Stefanie Kesecker

Chairperson Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes July 19, 2022

Motion was made by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Callahan to approve the July 19, 2022 minutes, with amendment to number 5. Ms. Baldwin was originally requesting \$30,000, but the amount is now \$40,000. Chris Sparks, with Parks and Recreation will be taking care of the memorial plaque for Gina Letellier.

VOTE 7- 0

2. Barrels

Ms. Baldwin advised she had received a couple of calls about the barrels and that some of the flowers look dead. Al Fini stated that due to the recent heat wave and wind factors, the plants were experiencing a budworm infestation. Mr. Fini stated that no sign of the budworm in Feeding Hills, but a little on Main St. Mr. Raymond stated Sacred Heart also has an infestation. In about 10 days these should reflower according to Mr. Fini. West Springfields' barrels look great, but they do not have vegetation around them, which contributes to the budworm infestation. Mr. Fini will water the flowers every other day.

Motion was made by Ms. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Fusik to keep the barrels on the agenda.

VOTE 7 - 0

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 16, 2022

3. Light Pole Planters

Ms. Baldwin expressed her appreciation for the DPW for installing the brackets, and picking up the plants and bringing them to the bridge. DPW worked with Arden Electric and did a super job. West Springfield is going to pay half and the Procurement Office is assisting in getting the payment from them.

Mr. Fini expressed the difficulty in watering the flowers at this location, due to the height. Mr. Fini stated on the south side of the bridge he has to use the bike path to water the plants, and he frequently encounters bicyclists and was concerned as the BIG E is in a month and the increase this would cause in pedestrian and bike traffic. Ms. Baldwin spoke to Western Growers about the possibility of fake flowers. Western growers said the plants should bloom for about another month, so there shouldn't be concern of watering as they will be gone by the BIG E opening. Ms. Baldwin stressed that there are only 4 planters so the cost is not prohibitive since West Springfield is splitting it with us, and if Mr. Fini needed to charge more for the difficulty watering or any equipment needed to make watering easier, the committee would compensate accordingly.

Motion was made by Ms. Parrotta and seconded by Mr. Raymond to keep the item on the agenda.

VOTE 7 - 0

4. Anne Sullivan – Memorial

Ms. Baldwin would like to continue this item to the September 20th, 2022 meeting.

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

Vote 7 - 0

5. Other Projects

Ms. Baldwin stated the CPA provided a couple of barrels by bench at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course for Joseph Mineo who served 25 years on the town council. Originally, this was not going to occur until sometime in September, but is now happening next week. New planting is needed as a one-time thing, and the golf course would take care of ongoing maintenance for the plantings.

Ms. Baldwin spoke about the Gina Letellier Memorial. Chris Sparks did a nice border around it, and it has been landscaped. Ms. Letelliers' Aunt brought 2 hydrangeas, which were Ms. Letelliers' favorite flower. The planted flowers are not doing well, but will be replaced by the dedication. Mr. Raymond stated there are nice hydrangeas at the garden center now. The council is going to handle this project, which is being funded by CPA and Parks and Recreation.

6. Correspondence

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 16, 2022

Ms. Raymond said perhaps the flower barrels by the bench on Federal St. could possibly be used for the Historical Society in front of the Firehouse Museum.

Ms. Baldwin received lots of positive feedback about the island on Main St. in front of Giovanni's Bakery. This was funded by CPA as it was a new planting project. Beautification Committee will handle the watering and maintenance of the island.

Ms. Baldwin spoke about the beautification project at the library and is hoping to use CPA funds to complete the project. The stones are deep and will need moved and soil added. The library would be responsible for maintaining the area, once the landscaping has been finished. There have been discussions of erecting a sign at the library that says the project was co-funded by CPA and Beautification.

Ms. Baldwin spoke about the Mayor honoring Marilyn Curry with a plaque on the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, which would go through CPA. The plaque would tell the history of the bridge and how it was named.

7. Discussion of any topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate.

None presented

Motion made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Ms. Joyce to adjourn at 3:57pm

VOTE 7 - 0

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20th 2022, at 3pm.