

Kelly Bilodeau

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Town of East Hartford

Minutes

March 7, 2024

EHCCC room111

2024 MAR 11 AM 9:15

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

CALL TO ORDER –

Chair Sirois called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Patricia Sirois, Chair; Mary Mourey, Cindy Woodman, Delores Kehoe, Kathy Cattanach, Tim Larson, Kim Knapp and Florence Oten

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 1, 2024

Motion made by Mary Morey to approve minutes of February 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Tim Larson. All in favor. Motion approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK – None

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Gary McKeon-Associate Director of Parks & Grounds read by Chair Sirois

- Basketball courts throughout town will be repaved and painted – jobs have begun, demo started Monday and will continue. Painted courts should be complete by the end of May.
- Futsal courts Martin– has been postponed. Gorman Park is now the location for the futsal courts, still to go to bid.
- Town Council's North end clean-up program
 - Tolland St. at Manchester line – still awaiting Eversource clearing of trees/brush growing into power lines, a ticket has been submitted to Eversource. Repeated inquiries to Eversource have not been acted on, including personal contact with Eversource's Arborist. UPDATE - Met with Eversource and they will address these areas as they go through town this year.
- Pickleball Court and Terry Pool at Hockanum Park
 - Lights are installed and operational, there are plans to replace the overgrown arborvitaes in the spring.
- Tree City USA
 - 2023 Tree City – Application completed and submitted in December. We are awaiting word on award.
- Long Hill Brick Wall
 - Still looking for a funding source to cover the costs of materials and labor, and the Grants department is investigating.
- DePietro Park Pollinator Garden

- Construction has been completed and the location is ready for planting in the spring. A possible sunflower garden has been proposed for the back of the park. A rail fence will be going in around the parking area.
- Holiday Festival – décor
 - Purchase of an artificial tree for the Town Green is in the process for next year's event.
- Winter pruning of trees began after leaf season was completed and continues.
- The replacement of Goodwin Park swing sets is being investigated for possible funding. The goal is to be completed by end of June.

Property Maintenance- no report

Concern brought up by Cindy Woodman in regard to the Welcome to East Hartford brick wall sign damaged for the third time by car slamming into it. Who should this concern be addressed to? Worried about the crosswalk and pedestrians possibly getting hit. Also Founders Plaza demolition concern. Discussion held. Concerns should be sent to the Mayor.

CHAIR REPORT – will discuss during the Budget update

FINANCIAL REPORT –

Balance is \$6,217.81

Trees and plantings is budgeted for \$4747.50

Discussion to move special events funds of \$820 to trees & plantings.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Budget hearing update.

Chair Sirois explained how the council asked questions regarding her budget. Gave suggestions on perhaps getting money from the businesses instead. Council has one more hearing then goes for final approval.

2. Arbor Day at Langford School on April 26th. Sent old brochure to secretary. Emailed Principal for the time of the program. No response as yet. Need to buy the tree for the planting at the school.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Spring plantings –

Will tell Gary McKeon to keep the budget at \$5000. Chair will email him to get prices/quotes for plants before purchasing.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Tim Larson proposed to the Mayor to remove the islands at the exit ramp on Governor Street. Tim reported on a proposal from Lumber Jacques, LLC for the North-End cleanup. Working with Awet Tsegai on this proposal.

Locations include: Higbe DR and Woodlawn Connector Pathway, Chipper DR Trail Entry/Exits points @ Scotland and Chipper DR. Terrace Ave cul-de-sac, North Meadows, Old MDC building (Goodwin Lance/Scotland RD) and Tolland ST overflow parking spots.

Also concerned still about Prospect ST where Eversource cleared trees, left the mess and the end table someone left months ago is still there.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

\$75.00 to clerk for this meeting

Motion by Cindy Woodman to pay clerk for this meeting, seconded by Dolores Kehoe. All in favor. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mary Mourey and seconded by Cindy Woodman. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM

The next regular meeting of the Beautification Commission is April 4, 2024 Location EHCCC room 111 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sana Hart, Clerk
