

*Kelly Bilodeau*

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Town of East Hartford

Minutes

April 4, 2024

EHCCC room111

2024 APR -5 AM 11:12

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD

CALL TO ORDER –

Chair Sirois called the meeting to order at 5:31p.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 – March 7, 2024

Motion made by Mary Mourey and seconded by Tim Larson to approve minutes of March 7, 2024. All in favor. Motion approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK – None

DIRECTORS REPORTS

**Joe Cortes- Property Maintenance** - reports on the following

- 15-27 Chapman Street Apartments (4) buildings – new boilers installed by the landlord for a total of \$300,000, one for each building. Will do an inspection next week.
- 39-43 Hamilton Road Apartments –Housing authority closed one entire building, 8 units, all tenants relocated. An electrical issue
- 470 Main Street Car Wash-issued permits to redo the island and parking spaces. Work began over a week ago
- 740 Main Street Town Hall- 2 phases will begin 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May; by May 30<sup>th</sup> everyone will be moved in to Town Hall
- Inspections to be made on Rooming houses, motels and hotels

Chair Sirois reported on 2 properties:

64 Oxford DR- owner has a little side business going on. Joe Cortes stated that he gave this information to the zoning officer

56/58 Cloverdale-junk in the backyard

Com. Larson inquires about the completion date of the Silver Lane property. Gary McKeon- this is being handled by the Development Office.

**Gary McKeon-Associate Director of Parks & Grounds**

- Tree City USA
  - 2023 Tree City – We have been notified that we are recipients for the 28<sup>th</sup> year in a row. We received this award due to our commitment to the replacement of trees and our resistance to removal. I will be receiving paraphernalia from them, have

no idea what will be sent. *Pat Sirois- I hope that it is a flag. If not, otherwise we will have to order one.*

- Basketball courts throughout town will be repaved and painted – jobs have begun, demo started is ongoing and we will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the paving schedule, the weather is wreaking havoc with the demo and paving due to everything being too wet which in turn is delaying our other spring operations. Painted courts should be complete by the end of May, weather pending.
- 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
  - We will be expanding the clean-up locations to include the banks of the Hockanum River along Scotland Road and Burnside Ave. We will be removing anything that is smaller than 6 inches in diameter, anything bigger will remain to assist in riverbank retention. This will be done when possible after other spring operations have been completed.
- Pickleball Court and Terry Pool at Hockanum Park
  - There are plans to replace the overgrown arborvitae in the spring.
- Long Hill Brick Wall
  - Still looking for a funding source to cover the costs of materials and labor, the Grants department could not fund the project and we are switching gears as to using retaining panels instead of blocks. Once again, the property behind this wall does not belong to the town.
- DePietro Park Pollinator Garden
  - The mayor met with the garden club this week to discuss the schedule for planting. The sunflower portion of the project is on hold for a redesign as it was too big of a project for Handle Farms. Chair Sirois states that Beautification and John Murphy are also part of this project. Who will be responsible for watering? Park department, discussion held.
- Holiday Festival – décor
  - Purchase of an artificial tree for the Town Green will need to go out to bid due to the cost and purchasing restrictions.
- The replacement of Goodwin Park swing sets is being investigated for possible funding. The goal is to be completed by the end of June.
- The Mayor's clean-up event is tentatively scheduled for May 18 and will include locations on Main Street and Burnside Ave. If the date holds, one of the work locations will be the planting of the flower barrels on Main Street. Will meet at Alumni Park, looking for 100-150 volunteers.

Com. Cindy Woodman would like to know where to go for updates on road work. Gary McKeon – Mayor will be making updates.

Com. Tim Larson has a small request regarding the black barrel at the end of Goodwin Street and RT 2, Governor off ramp. Would look 100% better if removed. Replace the one at Goodwin and paint the island.

Chair Sirois asks if Gary was able to get Woodland Gardens to reduce their quote. Gary states that the bill will be \$5500.

**CHAIR REPORT** – see updates in Old and New Business

**FINANCIAL REPORT –**

Com. Mary Mourey – we have \$6,142.81 left in our budget.

**OLD BUSINESS-**

1. Spring plantings budget- \$5500, Parks Department will help with monies over budget.
2. Arbor Day April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am Langford School- invitations not received as yet, were told that they were sent
3. Pollinator Garden Update- Garden Club-Sue, Beautification Com-Pat and John Murphy have asked for donations from Molduc Nursery and Lots and More. Rotary Club has donated benches.
4. Budget Update- We are approved for our increase to \$10,800

**NEW BUSINESS-**

1. Transfer of funds- Chair Sirois entertains a motion to transfer funds.  
Motion by Com. Cindy Woodman and seconded by Com. Tim Larson to transfer fund of \$820.31 from Special Events to Trees and Plantings. All in favor, motion approved.
2. Arbor Day Membership- Chair called to verify when membership expires. Have not received renewal in the mail, asked them to email. Noticed that it can also be paid online. Chair Sirois will pay the membership online and then be reimbursed for the \$15.00 cost of membership.
3. Tree City Flag- we will have to order one if one doesn't arrive in the mail to Parks Department.

**OTHER BUSINESS** – none

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

\$75.00 to clerk for this meeting

Motion by Com. Cindy Woodman to pay clerk for this meeting, seconded by Com. Mary Mourey. All in favor. Motion approved.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Com. Kim Knapp and seconded by Com. Mary Mourey. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM

The next regular meeting of the Beautification Commission is May 2, 2024 Location EHCCC room 111 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sana Hart, Clerk

