

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Town of East Hartford

Minutes

February 1, 2024

EHCCC room111

2024 FEB -5 AM 9:37

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

CALL TO ORDER –

Chair Sirois called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Patricia Sirois, Chair; Mary Mourey, Cindy Woodman, Delores Kehoe, Kathy Cattanach, Tim Larson

ABSENT EXCUSED: Kim Knapp

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 7, 2023

Motion made by Mary Morey to approve minutes of December 7, 2023. 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

- Basketball courts throughout town will be repaved and painted – jobs have been awarded scheduled to be completed in spring after paperwork issues are resolved.
- Futsal courts Martin– still need to go out to bid. Gorman Park cannot be done due to funding.
- 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. No change due to Eversource's lack of response
- Pickle ball Court and Terry Pool at Hockanum Park
 - Lights are being installed this week with 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.
Tim Larson asks who their contact is at Eversource. Tim is concerned that they have not returned calls, also concerned that Eversource did trimming over a year

ago and the debris is still there. Publeek is the contact at Eversource, he is their Public relations person. Tim spoke about bringing back the Connecticut River, the linear trails. Massive cleanup, repair and maintain. Make them safe and more accessible to residents.

Mary Mourey makes motion that the Commission endorse Tim Larson's plan to cleanup, repair and maintain the linear trail. Cindy Woodman seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

- 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.
- Leaf Season
 - Completed on time.
- Holiday Festival – décor
 - Investigating possible purchase of artificial trees for the Town Green for next year's event. Requests out to 3 companies, will be out of Park & Rec budget
- Winter pruning of trees began after leaf season was completed.
- The replacement of Goodwin Park swing sets is being investigated for possible funding. The goal is to be completed by end of June.

Inspector Chris Duverger, Property Maintenance- reported

Jaidee Drive Apartments -50 apartments renovated

15-17 Rosenthal Street, caught fire; applied for demolition permit

15-27 Chapman Street – 4 building with no heat, boiler breakdown; 63 apartments- people relocated

Wayfair & Lowes Warehouse -

Illegal dumping - tires are being left all around town, police are aware, 20-60 tires per location

Cindy Woodman asks about the large old house by the sharp curve on Prospect ST, porch collapsed, they are repairing it. Will this be inspected? Yes inspectors and engineers are on site. House was hit by a car.

Tim Larson mentions the house on Goodwin towards Main, retaining wall falling apart, wall has fallen onto the sidewalk.

CHAIR REPORT –

Julies Robinson informed me that she did not renew her commission.

After a meeting with the Mayor I have decided to stay on as Chair. Mayor Connor will be hiring an Event Coordinator who will be doing all the background and grunt work. Permits, grant writing, coordinating delivery of all posters and brochures. We will be advising this person, we will be more of an Advisory Commission. Mayor wants more lights on Main ST and businesses involved. Spoke with George Agnelli and he will be getting the businesses on board.

FINANCIAL REPORT –

Mary Mourey hand out the budget. As of today our balance is \$6,292.8, which \$4,747.50 is earmarked for trees and plantings.

Chair Sirois read her letter which she sent to Town Council asking for an increase of \$1800 in the budget. The following would be increased if the budget request is approved.

An increase of the clerk's fee from \$75 to \$100

Trees/Plantings will increase to \$7000

Special event increase to \$2500

The budget for 2024 increase to \$10,800.

Tim Larson comments that trees and plantings should come out of the Parks Department. Too late for this year's budget.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Budget – discussed in financial report
2. Holiday Fest/Event Coordinator - discussed in Chair's report

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Arbor Day April 26th at Langford School
Pat Sirois contacted Principal Cynthia Callahan and Andrew Clapsaddle, Director of Fine Arts.
2. Hockanum Linear Trail – Tim Larson explained his Larson Family Trust and the mission to plant trees and clearing of debris. Start a program from Hillside to Walnut, regain the river. A design plan is in progress; has some sponsors including Coca Cola, CT River Council.

OTHER BUSINESS –

PAYMENT OF BILLS

\$75.00 to clerk for this meeting

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

ADJOURNMENT – Chair asks for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Cindy Woodman and seconded by Mary Mourey. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

The next regular meeting of the Beautification Commission is March 7, 2024 Location EHCCC room 111 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sana Hart, Clerk

