

Kelly Bilodeau

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Town of East Hartford

Minutes

May 2, 2024

EHCCC room111

2024 MAY -3 AM 11:03

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

CALL TO ORDER –

Chair Sirois called the meeting to order at 5:36p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT Patricia Sirois, Chair; Mary Mourey, Cindy Woodman, Dolores Kehoe and Kim Knapp

ABSENT Kathy Cattanaach –Excused
Tim Larson – Excused
Florence Oten

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 4, 2024

Motion made by Cindy Woodman and seconded by Mary Mourey to approve minutes of April 4, 2024. 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 begun, demo is complete. The courts at Gorman will be moved from their current location to the area where the old tennis courts were. This will be bid in conjunction with the Futsal courts and will be done at a later date.
- 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 were renting a machine to clear slopes on river banks, this will take place later in the summer. Recently purchased a remote operated mower.
- Pickleball Court and Terry Pool at Hockanum Park
 - There are plans to replace the overgrown arborvitaes 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

- Planting to begin in June
- Holiday Festival – décor
 - Bids are in and PO process is proceeding, we will have one tree on the green in front of the Gazebo and it appears as if this will be done in time for this year's event. Updated that the bids are complete. The tree is 2 ½ stories high, 26ft tree.
- The funding for the replacement of Goodwin Park swing sets has been approved. 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. Going forward this event may be re-branded as East Hartford Beautification Day.
- Weed removal, mulching and summer plantings have begun throughout town.
- Town Hall front lawn re-grading and irrigation installation are underway. Hydro seed in about two weeks.

Joe Cortes- Property Maintenance – Inspector Chris Duverger reports on the following properties:

- Property on the corner of Elm and Bissell was evacuated due to sewage backup. One family was relocated by us; the other families were able to stay with family. Roto Rooter has applied for the permit.
- 745 Burnside Avenue- Stone Academy reported abandoned. Burnside LLC new owners. We have reached out to them to clean up the property and take care of the lawn.
- 85 Park Avenue – hoarding scrap metal. Violation letter has been sent.
- 59 Elm Street – permits have been filed, foundations have been poured.

Comments/questions-

Com. C. Woodman mentions there is a gigantic tree on the corner of Prestige and Goodwin. The whole side of it was taken down by the last storm, it is hollow and dead. Gary McKeon will take a look and put it on the list.

Com. M. Mourey –how many cars are allowed in a driveway.

C. Duverger – if all are registered there is no limit, can't park on the lawn.

Com. Sirois –asked Gary McKeon for a list of trees, inventory list.

Gary will email the list. Only ornamental trees are allowed on an island.

Chair Pat Sirois- resident Gary Vollinger contacted me. Wants to purchase a tree and have the town plant it on the island on Brookfield. Pam Vollinger asked if town will provide a plaque.

Gary McKeon- no the town will not pay or provide a plaque, it would be on the resident.

Chair Pat Sirois- asks for any updates on the properties brought to Joe Cortes at last meeting; 56/58 Cloverdale and 64 Oxford Dr.

Chris Duverger didn't see any updates; will remind Joe.

CHAIR REPORT –

Arbor Day membership is all set.

FINANCIAL REPORT –

Com. Mary Mourey – Balance is \$6052.81. I transferred funds of \$802.50 to trees. Balance in trees is now \$5567.81

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Arbor Day update- the day was lovely. Principal Callahan was very easy to work with.
2. Spring plantings update – reported by Gary McKeon
3. Pollinator Gateway garden –Committee consists of Mayor Martin, John Murphy, Pat Sirois, Alex of the Rotary, Sue of the Garden Club. I went with John Murphy to Green Machine in Bloomfield. They gave us a discount, Jessica who works there was very nice and knowledgeable. Has worked on many pollinator gardens. The planting will be on June 1st at 10 AM. Kim will be there with 10-15 students from Sunset Ridge. The Rotary and Garden Club members will also be there. Channel 5 will be there to take pictures and do a story.

Update on Events Coordinator- a women has been offered the position. It is a one year grant. If everyone agrees Pat will look for old time graphics for the Holiday fest brochure. Discussion held on Victorian carolers strolling and singing on Main St.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Beautification Awards for June suggestions.
Chair Sirois asks for commissioners to look at 19 Brookfield. Also bring your suggestion to the June meeting. Clerk will re-sort list by alpha street name and email to all commissioners.
Com. Mary Mourey –we will need to purchase more frames for the awards. We can use the money in office supplies.
Com. Cindy Woodman made motion to purchase frames for the awards for both residential and businesses. Motion seconded by Com. Dolores Kehoe. All in favor. Motion approved.

July meeting falls on a holiday. It was agreed by all to move the meeting to July 11th. Pat reminds everyone to come prepared with houses and businesses. There will be no meeting in August.

OTHER BUSINESS – none

PAYMENT OF BILLS

\$75.00 to clerk for this meeting
Motion by Com. Mary Mourey to pay clerk for this meeting, seconded by Com. Cindy Woodman. All in favor. Motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair asks for a motion to adjourn. Com. Mary Mourey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Com. Dolores Kehoe. All in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:31PM

The next regular meeting of the Beautification Commission is June 6, 2024 Location at Town Hall 740 Main St in the Welling Conference room at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sana Hart, Clerk

