

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

February 4, 2021 at 12pm noon Zoom Call

ATTENDANCE: Nancy Thiel, Karin Gianitti, Jim Jamieson, Ryan Gussen, Claudia Hahn

GUESTS: Carolyn Hill (Economic Vitality Committee), Tom Failla (Tree Warden)

MINUTES: Jim made a motion to approve the Minutes from December 3, 2020. Ryan seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

POSSIBLE COMPOST AT JARVIS MILITARY ACADEMY: Claudia had spoken with Dave Ungar and Tom Failla about creating a possible compost pile at Jarvis. Unbeknownst to the Committee, a compost pile was begun in the fall off of School Rd across from the BOE Building. Tom reported that Chuck Carboni, responsible for School Facilities, has been using the site for leaves, grass clippings and twigs. Shrubs and large branches are still hauled to the transfer station. Tom is going to ask Chuck if town maintenance crews can use it too. Larger items could be chipped to add to the pile. It is anticipated that Chuck will turn the pile as needed and eventually we hope to have usable compost to be used on Town properties.

JARVIS BUILDING REPAIRS: Karin reported that Larry Liggett has examined the condition of the windows at Jarvis Military Academy. She will ask him for an itemized bid on repairing cracked and missing glass. Once we receive the estimate we will present it to the Historic Commission.

GREYLEDGE: Nancy, Bill, Jonathan Luiz and Claudia were set to have a conference call on 1/22, with Judge Lisa Wexler to discuss moving the Greyledge Account from TD Bank, but the call was cancelled by her office the day of. We will reschedule. In the meantime Bill has spoken with an attorney about the situation and is waiting to hear back from Fidelity and Schwab about managing the account. We received an itemized list of expenses from Rick Darling for 2020. The Greyledge Fund paid out a total of \$22,484.83. Total distribution from Fund was \$17,553.95.

COMPOST TEA: Claudia was in touch with Monique Bosch, who runs Wiggle Room, a vermicomposting supplier. Monique can deliver compost tea for us to spray - 25 gallons at \$150 or 50 gallons for \$250. If we decide to use compost tea for disease management, we can delete much of, but not all of, the previous spraying program.

SENIOR CENTER GARDENS: Ryan is working on a design for the new gardens. Claudia and Nancy did a preliminary review of the layout. The next step will be to select specific plants, which will be presented at our next meeting for discussion.

LIBRARY PLANTINGS: As soon as we can place an order, we will order 3 mountain laurel for the corner of the library where the dead Japanese Maple is presently

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS: Claudia and Nancy are working with Jonathan to edit the maintenance contracts for the coming year. The main issue is that the contracts need to be for the growing season, not the fiscal year which is Jonathan's preference. Tom suggested we do a 6 or 18 month contract to get back on track. Tom also suggested that we add a fifth contract to cover spraying and watering. It was asked if the town hires interns through the DPW. We should also look into finding volunteers through the high school environmental club.

COMMITTEE VACANCY: Nancy and Claudia will follow up and interview the first applicant.

TOWN GREEN: Jim has been in touch with Shane Kuhn of County Contractors for an estimate.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS: Karin reported that the transfer station employee was so excited to have a wreath this year. A big thank you to Karin for being out in the cold stringing lights and hanging wreaths with custodian Tony. After the holidays Karin also removed a lot of the wreaths around Town with her son. A big thank you to Jim and his wife Marylou, for taking the lights and tree down from the gazebo, which are now stored in their shed.

NEXT MEETING: March 4, 2021 at 12pm noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hahn, Co-chair
Beautification Committee