

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WESTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Thiel, Karin Gianitti, Jim Jamieson and Ryan Gussen (call in). Ann Hunt and Amy Sanborn were also present. Jonathan Luis stopped in for a minute.

MINUTES: We did not vote to approve minutes from the October 2 meeting. At the next meeting, December 4, we will approve minutes from October and November.

RECAP OF FOUNDERS DAY: We briefly discussed the success of Founders Day and agreed that, for future celebrations, more time to plan would be helpful. We also talked about turning over the decision to celebrate Founders Day and to select a committee to run it to the Selectmen. More discussion and a vote will be needed on this topic.

REPORT ON MEETING OF 11/30/19: Nancy reported that, in the future, there will be two maintenance contracts only – one for tree work and the other for everything else. Claudia is updating and we will review at the next meeting. Nancy also explained the status of the Greyledge Fund. Nancy and Claudia met with Bill Lomas, Rick Darling and Jonathan. Bill helped explain the current status of the fund. We seem to be paying too much for management. Jonathan has set up a call with TD Bank to discuss our options. That conference call is scheduled for Thursday, 11/14 at 3:30pm. Claudia and Nancy will attend.

LIBRARY TRANSPLANTING AND NEW PLANTINGS FOR SPRING: Representatives from the library asked for Louis to price the relocation of the two plants in front of the community entrance and also price their removal (if that is the best course) before any work is done. There is still an issue about who is going to pay for the work. That will have to be decided between the library and the town. Beautification will cover the installation of new flowering plantings in the spring. [NB: We will cover the cost of the removal given that we will plant something flowering in their place next spring.]

TOWN DECEMBER DÉCOR: We talked about revising the list of wreath locations, sizes and quantities. There is an old list but we'll put together a new draft and share via email prior to the next meeting. Karin Feingold will be hanging evergreen rope at the Gazebo. Karin G. will let her know that the existing lighting should not be disturbed. We still need to determine where we will get the tree. Options are Boy Scouts, Weston Gardens or Karin G suggested we consider buying a fake tree. If the Garden Club is too busy to hang lights on 12/5, we'll see if we can round up some Beautification members to help out.

TOWN GREEN FUNDRAISING: We discussed the generous matching grant of \$250,000 from the Daniel Offutt Trust. We are still awaiting the formal letter from Dick Orenstein. We can't announce it until it is signed. The total for the project, including \$100k for two years of maintenance, is \$500,000. The Town will cover the signage, lighting and sidewalks but the cost of that still needs to be confirmed. The remainder we will need to fundraise for. The good news is that we will not need a 501c3 status. The Town can open up an account for the project. As all of that is sorted out, Jim is going to review Nancy's preliminary budget.

TOWN GREEN UPDATE: The next step in the design process is to work on the memorial. Nancy wants to set up two subcommittees – one for research on the names of the Revolutionary and Civil War veterans and one for the design. The research subcommittee will include Karin G, Samantha Kulish from the Historical Society and someone from the Veterans Commission. The design subcommittee will include representatives from Beautification, the Veterans Commission and the HDC as they are requiring that we submit the memorial design for a certification of appropriateness.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thiel, Co-Chair
Beautification Committee