Weston Beautification Committee

Minutes – November 4, 2021, Zoom at Noon

Present: Nancy Thiel, Karin Gianitti, Ellen Crown, Ryan Gussen (partial), Claudia Hahn

Guest: Anne Hunt, Library Board Chair

Nancy moved to accept the October Minutes, Karin seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

We welcomed our new member, Ellen Crown, and look forward to working with her in the years to come. Ellen has very graciously offered to host a cocktail party at her home to educate invitees about the Town Green Project, kicking off the proposed new Village District.

**Greyledge**

Nancy and Claudia continue to work with a financial advisor to find better investment solutions for the Greyledge Fund. They are scheduling a Zoom meeting with Jonathan Luiz and Bill Lomas to discuss next steps.

**Maintenance**

Claudia, Jonathan Luiz, and Anne Hunt of the Library Board, did a walk around the library grounds on 11/3. There is a back-log of needed maintenance. There are many (15?) dry wells that are completely covered in debris; all the beds need weeding; and the dead Japanese Maple needs to be removed. Anne and Claudia decided where bulbs should be planted this fall. It was suggested that the Building Committee should get involved in how to resolve the dry well situation.

We are waiting for Juan Robles to give us a bid on general cleanup around Town Hall campus and at Jarvis. According to Jonathan, there are no funds in the present budget to do any extra grounds maintenance. We also have bulbs being donated from the Garden Club for various Town sites and Claudia ordered white daffodils and blue Camissia bulbs for the Library.

Karin made a motion to allocate up to $2000 for weeding, cleanup, and bulb planting. Nancy seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Ryan and Claudia will start work on designing the front garden bed at the Library.

**Town Green**

Nancy, Claudia, Samantha Nestor, Jim, and Jonathan had a conference call to discuss the responsibilities of various parties who will be involved in the Town Green project.

We need to arrange a meeting with Dawn Egan, Chair of Weston Community Fund and Jonathan to work out details of handling funds, writing checks, legal responsibility, etc.

The plan for a cocktail party on November 16th from 6-8pm at Ellen Crown’s home was presented. Nancy read the invitation and screen-shared two options for the cover. Entering Town of Weston photo was chosen. 60 invitations will be printed for a sum of $103.00.

The Town Green project will be presented along with plans for a Village District. Nancy, Ellen, and Claudia are working with Carolyn Hill of the Economic Vitality Committee to arrange the details of the party. Jim will help with set up.

**Founders Day**

We had a table at the Founders Day event on October 11. Nancy spoke and described the new Town Green project. We had a poster of the rendering of the new Town Green as a visual aid. There was good interest from the attendees.

**Holiday Decorating**

We need to set a date to put up the tree in the Gazebo and hang wreaths. Claudia and Karin will purchase wreaths. There are bows leftover from last year.

**Around Town**

There was discussion on how to encourage Townspeople to clean up their properties and also decorate with lights for the holiday season. Last year Kate Roe organized the extra lights around Town to brighten the mood. Karin will reach out to her to give support. We discussed handing out awards next spring/summer to neighbors with beautiful street front plantings and want to get the word out that DPW can assist in cleaning up dangerous branches along town roads.

**Congratulations**

Ryan was congratulated for winning Waltz Family Scholarships at UCONN for academic performance and his dedication.

Meeting adjourned 12:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Claudia Hahn, Co-Chair