Minutes

Special Meeting of Beautification Committee

May 25, 2022

Zoom at Noon

Present:

Karin Gianitti, Ellen Crown, Claudia Hahn

Call in: Ryan Gussen, Pat Glass

Guests: Samantha Nestor, Weston First Selectwoman, Jonathan Luiz, Weston Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 12:01pm. Claudia asked Samantha to explain the Dog Park and the basis for this meeting.

DISCUSSION OF PLANTING AT DOG PARK

Samantha explained that the Town is at the final stages of approving the Dog Park, (located at Lords Hwy East & Davis Hill), with Conservation approval expected tomorrow. The Dog Park is within a 36-acre property owned by the Town. The Dog Park will inhabit a 2.8-acre area, defined by an existing stone wall, and will have an added security chain-link fence to the stone wall perimeter. Access will be a gravel driveway with 20 parking spaces.

Dr. Tom Failla (Weston Tree Warden), has provided a proposed planting plan for the site to aid in remediating soil disturbance, adding flowering native plantings to the parking area and providing some screening to neighboring properties.

The Town is requesting $20,000 for the planting and maintenance of flowering trees and shrubs in the proposed area, funded through the Greyledge Fund.

Discussion followed regarding initial and ongoing maintenance. (Watering, mulching, pruning, deer repellant spraying, and keeping invasives from taking hold). It was determined that once the site is cleared and ready for planting a more detailed planting plan can be devised using the Beautification Committee’s experience and Tom Failla’s knowledge. A budget of $20,000 will be used based on the cost of maintenance for the first 3 years plus the cost of plants and planting.

Claudia made a motion to provide $20,000 from the Greyledge Fund to provide for the planting of native plants and maintenance for the first 3 years, as designated by a future mutually agreed upon planting plan once the site is prepped for planting. Ryan seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN GREEN FUNDING THROUGH ARPA

Samantha explained that the Town Green Project has been allocated $150,000 through the proposed allocation of funds through ARPA. Dick Orenstein, Trustee of the Daniel E Offutt, III Charitable Trust will match this amount and additional donations up to $250,000. This will bring us very close to our budget of $544,940.

There will be a public hearing on the ARPA allocations tomorrow, May 26 at 6pm. June 1 there will be a Board of Selectmen discussion on the hearing, with continued meetings on June 1, and a Town wide machine vote, yes or no, on the total allocations on June 18th.

Meeting adjourned 12:46pm

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Hahn

Chair, Weston Beautification Committee