

**Salem Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018**

Chairman Lisa Lyons opened meeting at 7:00 p.m., Present were Ellen Talkowsky, City Liaison, members Sam Fiore, Giulia Bellofatto, Sandi Power, Annie Scott, Bill Doane.

Absent: Mary Ellen Halliwell, Barb Sirois.

Approval of meeting minutes for April 10 will be in June.

Guest: Adam Kookan from Salem Access TV.

SATV and Beautification Committee Promotional Video. A conversation took place with Adam Kookan from Salem Access Television about opportunities to film BCom volunteers at traffic island locations and spring events. Film will be used to create a promotional video to be played on Salem's local access cable station. Recommended locations for filming include Washington Street, Essex Street and on May 24th when the Ladies of Salem are installed on lamp posts. Lisa will collect photos from previous BCom events to be incorporated into the video. Messaging and mission statements will be supplied. Members can give Lisa a heads-up if they are out and about and she will communicate with Adam to send a crew out. Adam mentioned how grateful he/SATV folks are to Denise Balfe for maintaining their flower box.

Clean Sweeps – Saturday, May 5, 2018 – Members reviewed the efforts of Saturday's Clean Sweeps day. Ellen said that over 150 bags were filled. BCom cleaned up the Sewall parking lot by the YMCA, Sam, Sandi, Giulia, Bill, and volunteers Elizabeth Charmant and Denise Dragonis helped. A successful pizza party on the Common was held. Thanks to Essex Pizza, Giulia, for donating snacks, Lisa for donating bananas, Ellen Talkowsky and DPW crew for help.

Plant Sale – Saturday, May 19, 2018

Sandi has been working with Darlene's and we're all set with our order of annuals – it will pretty much be the same order as last year. Sandi has about 6 dozen plants that have been potted up, indoor and perennials, and many more waiting to be dug up and potted. Colored pricing sticks are ready, with unmarked sticks available for additional pricing. Need to settle on raffle prizes. Marcia's huge spider plant could be one. Display it with the babies to be sold at the sale. A ground tarp will have pots, baskets, gardening materials and books that are free for the taking.

Ellen will share last year's price list with the committee. Annie will order pollinator plants – a new addition to the plant sale (3 flats, containing 36 plugs include: *butterfly weed*, *spike gayfeather*, *short-toothed mountain mint*). Pollinator plants that do not sell can be used on traffic islands. Raffle items were discussed and considered. Sam will make a beautiful herb bowl (like she does every year); Sandi will assemble a baby spider plant arrangement using Marcia Lambert's plants. Bill suggested landscaping or other gift certificate raffle items. Logistics for the Plant Sale were discussed – volunteers are needed at 7:30 to set up, two tables needed for perennials, and one for indoor plants. We will NOT have the carts this year. Bill Doane has access to wood boxes and burlap for decorating tables for appealing displays, in the absence of carts. Giulia has an old wooden ladder that will be a decorative option for plant display, also. Plant sale signs should go up next week (after Sunday), promoting the Saturday sale. Giulia will put one on North Street, Sandi has 4 signs that she will put up by Salem State University. **Bill Doane made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$250 of Beautification funds for the purchase of pollinator plants. Sam Fiore seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion so carried.**

Traffic Islands

Sandi reported on the several traffic islands and public areas that have had their initial clean up:

BCom member Giulia Bellofatto has joined Sandi's volunteer group. ☺

- Riley Plaza
- The Chimney Co, Norman St.
- Bouchard & Son, Derby St. at Riley Plaza
- Park at Hawthorne Blvd/Derby
- Boys & Girls Club on Hawthorne Blvd with the help of two women from the DAR
- Fisher & Shaw garden, with Kathy Cocozella who will maintain it
- The three islands at Loring and Lafayette
- The SSNA sidewalk island at Forest River Park
- The hosta islands and Mazow & McCullough's sidewalk garden at Front/Washington St.
- RCG's gardens at Derby/Wash in front of Bk of America
- Lafayette Park sidewalk garden

Awaiting list from Ellen of islands currently sponsored. Need to call those who have not been heard from.

If Ellen can get a list of locations that need mulch, the guys (DPW) will pick it up from Northeast Nursery.

Sam talked about the two urns that will go at the top of the Washington Street traffic island (across from Rockafellas), estimated irrigation cost of \$500 (depends on how far they have to dig to find the line). Also, can DPW fill the urns with stone and dirt (probably another \$100). **Giulia Bellofatto made a motion to expend Beautification Committee funds not to exceed \$650 for installation of irrigation and installation of flower pots and dirt at this Washington Street island. Bill Doane seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion so carried.**

Sandi talked about planting the urns that are on Mill Hill – using similar plants used last last year; probably geraniums (last year, we used hanging plants) and 2 ivy, 3 vincas, and spikes (per urn). **Giulia Bellofatto made a motion to expend Beautification Committee funds not to exceed \$325 for the planting of the Mill Street traffic island flower pots. Bill Doane seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion so carried.**

Sandi said that Lucy Sprague has been working on the traffic island by Jerry's Army Navy Store. A conversation about the old Active Duty Service traffic island and the Verizon traffic island was had. These two locations will be on BCom's radar and will be addressed when the time is right to start planning and planting them. It was mentioned that the (former) Verizon traffic island might have a water source.

Ellen inquired about the Federal Street garden – near Murphy's Funeral Home. One of the Councilors wanted BCom volunteers to take a look at it. Volunteers were busy on Clean Sweeps day and did not have an opportunity to look at it. Sandi will try to find an opportunity to look at it with her volunteers.

RCG traffic island on Washington Street – Ray will work on cobblestones on the island near Barton Square. The City does not have a street painter yet, so line marking along Barton cannot happen. Also, the utility box needs to be painted again.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on June 12, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lyons
Chairperson