

Salem Beautification Committee Minutes

March 28, 2017

Meeting began at 7:14 p.m.

In attendance: Ellen Talkowsky, Sam Fiore, Mary Ellen Halliwell, Barbara Sirois, Marcia Lambert, Lisa Lyons

Absent: Bev Moustakis, Sandi Power, Colby Miller

Guest: Brad Harriman, SSU Student and Program Manager at CommunityEmployment

Brief intro/welcome to Guest, Brad Harriman, joining the Salem Beautification Committee meeting to learn about Salem committee meeting process.

1. Review/comment/accept Minutes from February 28, 2017

Amendments:

- New traffic island sponsor contact for RCG – contact name correction “Jim Gagnon”
- Lady of Salem correction – from Feb Minutes: re: situation (2016 miscommunication re: who owns/how Ladies are displayed) – it should be corrected to say a 2016 *contract violation* (not miscommunication).
- North Coast Creative s/be *NC Gallery Classics*.
- Creative Salem/2017 Salem Arts Festival Theme s/be *Tidal Shift* (not Tidal Waves).
- Clarification of HMA traffic island BComm maintenance efforts: The Beautification Committee will continue to maintain the island but Sandi will not be planting it anymore partly because it takes a lot of time and partly because of the toxicity of the wood chips in the soil, it has to be done more than once to keep living plants there.
- Motion to approve: Mary Ellen Halliwell, second: Marcia Lambert. Accepted approval of Minutes from February 2017 – with amendments.

2. Traffic Islands

RCG/Washington Street

Jim Gagnon is the Office Manager for RGG (offices located at 86 Lafayette St). Sam is working with him to obtain containers for the lower end of Washington Street (Qty 5 to be painted gray-light green with a high gloss finish; bricks will be placed in the base of the planters top weigh them down).

Planters will be on the island from about Front Street (reference/area) down Washington Street towards intersection (Derby). Ornamental grasses will be planted in between the planters. RCG will be doing the mulching (black); possibly this mulch will be ‘blown’ onto the traffic island, not shoveled.

RE: Irrigation for Washington Street/RCG traffic island – Ellen is working with the new Parks foreman, Ray Jodoin, and has obtained a quote to bring drip irrigation hoses into the (new) planters. Cost includes materials, controllers, connections and loom, as well as installing admitters, digging under the walk to ring the connection through. They would tap the existing line and add a line for the planters. Total cost is \$2,030.50.

Of note: *this is approximately the same cost for irrigation on the [Mill Street](#) traffic island replacement in 2015.*

The Salem Beautification Committee voted and accepted to approve spending for the Washington St. irrigation/urn project. Motion to approve: Mary Ellen Halliwell, second: Marcia Lambert.

Active Duty Service Traffic Island

The contractor is putting the Active Duty Service traffic island back into place on “Mill Hill” (near Verizon/Dominos; was removed for construction purposes in 2016). It is presumed that the contractor has \$2,050 to put this island back together. It was mentioned that Sandi will work on flower replacements. Tom O’Shea is assisting with irrigation details (2-zone drips and concrete).

Still unclear if Phil Blackwell will be working on this. He’s planning on starting work on the Congress and Derby Street traffic island (formerly Salem Witches Education League). There had been talk about moving the Active Duty Service sign to the Congress/Derby location.

Mill Street Traffic Island

Unclear if Roost/Berube will co-sponsor in 2017. Lisa to check with Roost to see if they’re still interested; doubtful Berube will co-sponsor (no answer received from Marc Berube re: continuing sponsorship; email sent in Feb).

Note: Construction crew did a nice job with curbing around the sewer drain

TBD – related expenses for the Mill Street Traffic Island to be paid for contractor or Salem BComm – to be discussed at April meeting.

3. Lady of Salem – review/update/activities for 2017 – Mary Ellen Halliwell

- Mary Ellen submitted a bill (\$380) from **NC Gallery Classics** – (this is for the Lady that was ordered/*donated to Creative Salem*).
- Another Lady will be ordered (from NC Gallery Classics) to have for painting demonstrations (Salem Maritime Festival, Antique Boat Show, other TBD?)
- Sheila Billings will be in touch with Ellen re: an invoice (\$500) and her W-9.
- A clean-up day at the YMCA will take place on 4/10/17– volunteers will vacuum, touch up Ladies of Salem, re-decoupage the Bates School Lady. (Sam, Marcia, Mary Ellen). Mary Sholds is our contact at YMCA.
- Home Depot will donate paint.
- Ted Kiley/Kiley Signs? – Ellen still waiting for W-9 info. Mary Ellen continues to communicate with Ted about submitting necessary info to the City. (Per Feb Minutes – services will be need for UV Coating and Backboards for Treasures Over Time Lady, Boys and Girls Club.
- *Ladies will go up (along Essex Street) on May 30th – start time 7:30-8:00 a.m. at YMCA. DPW assistance will be needed to take the Ladies out of the basement.*
- The Ladies will be on display in time for **Salem Arts Festival June 2nd, 3rd, 4th**. This year’s theme is ***Tidal Shift***. Sam Fiore and Barb Sirois have created sample jellyfish that will adorn the Ladies and complement this year’s theme; to be attached (possibly) to Ladies with velco/two sided.

4. Clean Salem, Green Salem/Clean Sweeps – May 6th, 2017 – 8:30a.m.–11:30a.m City-wide/Volunteer Pizza @Noon on the Salem Common (set up TBD)

- For more than 25 years, the City of Salem has organized Clean Salem Green Salem Day. Ellen signed us/City of Salem up for **Keep Massachusetts Beautiful Month** (Gov. Baker program, organize). Ellen will send out letters to school principals, neighborhood associations, Boy Scouts, Coastal Watch, SSU, others.
- Our guest, **Brad Harriman**, volunteered to coordinate a team from **Community Employment and participate in the event**. Lisa and Ellen will help coordinate and direct his team's effort.
- BComm and BComm volunteers will likely focus clean up efforts along Washington Street, Riley Plaza, and planted spaces (new in 2016) along Front Street.
- Volunteers will be at the Salem Common to help Ellen coordinate other community teams in the morning and will also help out at the pizza party after a morning of clean up. (Ellen will get paper products, water, Lisa and Bev (volunteered by Lisa) will coordinate snacks.
- **Ellen will get a dozen or so 'grabbers' from Winer Bros. BComm voted and approved to spend \$150 for the grabbers. Motioned: Marcia, Second Mary Ellen.**
- Efforts should be made by all to communicate the event to friends, neighbors, etc. (also, social media, newspaper notices, flyers – if made available in time; Ellen does submit info to Gazette, Salem News, SATV).

5. Plant Sale – May 20th, 2017 on Salem Common – 9:00a.m–1:00p.m. (set up time TBD)

- Ellen will check and see if the carts are available for this year's plant sale. It was agreed that these carts create a nice, welcoming visual and are promotional for our sale.
- BComm will coordinate with **Darlene's Flowers** to order flowers (details in April/early May).
- The tomatoes were a big hit last year (Mary Ellen donated some tomatoe plants from Gibneys/Peter Gibney. It was discussed that we should have tomato and more herb plants this year.
 - Raffle items to include: Herb Bowl (Sam), Lettuce Bowl? Other (Lisa has two plant stands). More? Discuss at April meeting.
 - **Shop the Tarp** – gardening items will be made available (free) to plant sale attendees.
 - Discussion – pursue having **professional "Plant Sale" signs**; approximate quantity 50. Lisa will talk to people at Gorilla. A quote from MinuteMan Press (reference) has the signs at \$450/Qty 50.
 - Barb Sirois suggested that **hats (brimmed) and bags** (for carrying gardent tools) be a consideration for purchase. It was mentioned that Sandi will be looking into getting additional t-shirts for new people and volunteers.

6. BComm Financials – Update

- An adjustment was made to BComm Account – Bcomm paid for one of the Ladies of Salem but the money wasn't transferred over. Financials have been adjusted/subtracted \$168 to reflect the adjustment.
- Mention of possibly giving money to supporting the water truck repairs. No discussion.

7. Ongoing for Reference - Calendar 2017 – BComm Activities

Lady of Salem – hang/Salem Arts Festival participation – May 30th/June 2-4th
Clean Salem, Green Salem – May 6th
Annual Plant Sale on Salem Common – May 20th
Traffic Island and Window Box Awards Event – August 10th
Lady of Salem @Maritime Festival – August 5th
Lady of Salem @Antique Boat Show –August 2th
Pumpkin Decorating Contest – mid-October
Lady of Salem take-down – early November
Wreath, lamp post ribbon wrap – end of November

* BComm Members – remind residents/neighbors/businesses to participate in Window Box Competition in July.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Lyons