

**Salem Beautification Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2018**

Chairman Lisa Lyons opened meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ellen Talkowsky, City Liaison, members Sam Fiore, Denise Balfe, Mary Ellen Halliwell, Sandi Power, and guest, Annie Scott. Absent: Marcia Lambert, Barbara Sirois, and Giulia Bellofatto

Sandi introduced Annie Scott, a landscaper who has moved from Pennsylvania and has a startup business in Salem. She would like to help us “make good plant choices,” is interested in joining and contributing to BComm, and will send a letter with the application form to the administration asap.

Chairman Lisa apologized for a busy schedule and a new job that prevented her from working up the November minutes. In addition her new job will entail 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month meetings, requiring BComm to decide on a different monthly meeting evening. It was **moved and voted to change the monthly meeting evening to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.** The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dates were sent for events in 2018:

Clean Sweeps	May 5
BComm Plant Sale	May 19, rain day May 20
Salem Arts Festival	6/1, 6/2, theme TBD
Salem Maritime Festival	8/4
Boat Show sometime in August	date TBD
Trails and Sails – Lady of Salem	9/21-9/23 and 9/28, 9/29
Pumpkin after-school groups	10/10, 10/11
Pumpkin decorating contest	10/13, 10/14

Lady of Salem repairs needed, per Chairman Mary Ellen, are not significant this year and she will handle them. Some of the Ladies are stored at the YMCA, some in her basement.

L.O.S. spring hanging:	Thurs. May 24 <sup>th</sup> or 31 <sup>st</sup>
L.O.S. take down:	October 18 <sup>th</sup> or 25 <sup>th</sup> . (DPW too busy to do it following Halloween)

SATV window box: Denise offered to plant SATV’s window box again this year. Means to prevent people sitting on the frame and squashing the plants were discussed: e.g., a low fence provided by Sandi, spikes, “wet paint” sign, etc. With Lisa’s help providing slides of our beautiful traffic islands, we will take them up on their offer of free TV advertising for our group in payment.

Traffic Islands. Chairman Sandi stated there were several islands available for sponsorship this year: the Median strip on Summer St., the Mill Hill median strip,

possibly the Temperance Park on Derby/Hawthorne Blvd., and also possibly the Service island on Mill Hill. The Merchant Hotel was suggested as a possible sponsor, as was the new Lark Hotel on Essex St. Mall. Ellen will contact the Chamber of Commerce and Main Streets re reaching out to their membership to attract sponsors. The Summer St. median strip, last sponsored by HMA, is a narrow and dangerous strip which T.I. Program volunteer Lucy Sprague last year planted from plant divisions from Riley Plaza.

Other islands may become available in June depending on responses to the MOU's in May. Any changes needed to MOU's and the transmittal letter will be determined asap in conjunction with Ellen. They should go out before end of April.

Mill Street Urns: Sam suggested we paint the drab urns a rusty red to give them life especially during the months they are not planted. She will bring in paint chips at our March meeting for possibilities. A team will be organized to paint them.

Sam also reports that RCG is funding two more irrigated urns for the upper end of the Washington St. Median Strip.

Ellen pointed out that funds received from the contractor to cover the costs of restoring the Service Island on Mill Hill need to be spent soon in order to avoid having them expropriated by the state. We, therefore, need to consider restoring the island this summer in spite of the fact that the construction around the site is still ongoing.

Leslie's Retreat: Mary Ellen submitted a application to the CPA for funds to landscape, purchase a bench, and create two plaques for Leslie's Retreat off North Street. It was rejected. Other sources were discussed. Strategy and budget remain to be discussed for BComm work on this neglected memorial site. Ellen states that our committee's financial resources are good and she will bring us up to date at the next meeting

The next meeting will beheld at 7 p.m. on March 13, 2018