

Salem Beautification Minutes from January 8, 2019

Meeting started at 7:09

I attendance: Lisa Lyons, Sandi Power, Sam Fiore, Giulia Bellofatto, Annie Scott, Stephanie Hagyard, Ty Hapworth, and Staff Person Ellen Talkowsky.

Absent: Mary Ellen Haliwell, Bill Doane, and Barbara Sirios.

The meeting started with a discussion on whether to have a meeting in February or skip to March since we have established the dates of upcoming events in May.

Minutes from December were reviewed – motion to approve by Stephanie, seconded by Sam.

Clean Sweeps – Lisa asked if anyone had any suggestions. Paint curbs, clean lots, a few of the suggestions. Lisa and Ellen suggested focusing all the groups to work on one thing such as painting benches, or something at the Willows or the Commons like painting, picking up trash. Do we have enough resources? Ellen said will reach out to the parks.

Last year there was a coordinated effort on the lot at the YMCA. Ellen suggests that we should engage with a few of the schools to help the with landscaping, planting flowers or vegetables. Is there someone already leading an effort that we could guide? A suggestion was made to reach out in the Clean Sweeps newsletter in the form of a questionnaire, “is there something that the Beautification Committee can assist you with”. Question to mull over, if we help plant, will the plants be taken care of over the summer?

Lisa also suggested that we coordinate something on the common, maybe give out seeds to the kids to take home. We could include a promotional sticker with several suggestions on what the Beautification Committee can do as well as information on events.

Stephanie is going to look into the seed giving suggestion. She works the farmers market and they did an event few years ago where they gave out vegetable seeds.

Also discussed was nudging the Ward Councilors to arrange cleanups. Wait until March to pick a location.

Plant Sale – Suggestions to add/improve on what we did last year. Ellen mentioned that someone suggested to her that we advertise that we have experts and for people to come talk to our experts. We could include this on our posters. We could reach out to SATV to re-run our Bcomm video. Lisa has a reach-out to SATV on her list. Giulia mentioned that last year we talked about putting together a binder about the different plants we’re selling and how to care for them. We could do a binder/slide show. We could set up a table for with Master Gardeners or even seasoned gardeners so people aren’t intimidated.

Plant sale signs are with Ellen, Lisa, Giulia and Sandi.

Ladies of Salem – Mary Ellen gave a brief update. She is waiting for the dates of the arts festival. Ellen informed that June 7-9 is the arts festival weekend. This year’s theme is roots-such as tree roots. We need to think of the language needed to work roots into the Ladies bios.

Giulia asked about lamination for the bios. Ellen mentioned she has a machine that laminates and there are other ways to make something more substantial.

Traffic Islands – Sam and Giulia have been cleaning the Washington St Island on weekends. Lots of trash. Sam asked about street sweeping. Ellen will look into it. Sam mentioned that the little block on the Riley Plaza end is completely trashed. Tire tracks all over the block tell of its' demise. Discussed placing "bollards" by the stoned garden. Ellen will discuss it with the DPW engineer and the new head of the parking department.

Sam will contact RCG about the new flower boxes outside 120 Washington Street. Sam thinks that Joe will take care of these.

Sam and Giulia discussed the Beautification Committee window signs and were informed that not all traffic officers have to honor them. Ellen will talk to the new parking director.

Ellen reports that the Central Street merchants' group is interested in doing 2 permanent beds-they'll work with Annie. Giovanni Alabiso from Salem Historical Tours is the contact person for the merchants.

Sandi got a terrible case of Poison Ivy pulling vines in her own back yard.....poor Sandi! She should be less itchy by the next meeting.

From the Mayor's Desk – Ellen informed the Committee that in a letter to be sent to the state, the Mayor put through a proclamation to make "nip" bottles redeemable, to cut down on the nip trash. The Committee is very much in favor of this going through.

Sandi started a discussion about Barbara Sirois' appointment end date, which is 2021. Ellen spoke to Barbara who stated she still wanted to be a member of the Beautification Committee. Ellen informed Barbara of the upcoming meeting and asked if she would attend. Barbara said she would, but she is absent. Ellen has had a conversation with Domenic regarding Barbara's appointment.

February meeting – We have discussed a lot today-we have momentum, do we want to skip February meeting? All were in favor to skip.

Next meeting we need to discuss the following:

What we want/need to do with our Bcomm money so we don't lose the funds. **Lappin Park**, can we send them some "grass money"? SRA owns the park so any request need to go through them. Can we get them to put up a small fence to protect the grass?

Ask City Engineer when we can replant Mill Hill (Active Duty) island with the funds we received from the contractor? What will happen to the money slated for that?

Verizon - Can they plant in front of their building? Can we bring them back on line?

Motion to adjourn at 8:14

Respectfully submitted,

Giulia Bellofatto