

Salem Beautification Committee Minutes

June 26, 2017

Meeting began at 7:09 p.m.

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

Absent: Colby Miller, Giulia Bellofatto, Bev Moustakis

1. Review/comment/accept Minutes from April, 2017 (Motion- BarbS, Second- MarciaL.)

Note: No BComm Meeting in May 2017

2. WINDOW BOXES – Window Box Competition and SATV Window Box Planting

- EllenT to call Garden Club to confirm Weds., August 9th for Awards
- BComm members to canvas neighborhoods and downtown and promote Window Box Competition (deadline end of July). Suggest that people/businesses email Ellen with contact info for entry consideration
- EllenT to email new entry form to BComm members
- Sandi will reach out to Tim Jenkins and see if Pickering House is available for August 9th for window box and traffic island awards ceremony
- SATV contacted Ellen wondering if BComm could assist with planting their window box in exchange for BComm video promotion. Ellen and Denise answered the call, purchased \$125 soil and hanging baskets (from Gibney's) and planted the box on June 20th. Denise may go back and paint the box. This was especially appreciated by SATV b/c it was in advance of the Pride Parade, so their downtown space was very appealing.

3. Traffic Islands – Sandi Power (Sandi's full report is attached; she/BComm talked about the items below).

Hawthorne Blvd and Derby Street – Open space, has no sponsor at this time

Sandi and her team spent hours and hours and cleaned up this entire space, picked up bricks, removed witch grass and bind weed, framed the rose bushes; quite an undertaking. Unofficial 'names' for this open space mentioned – *Father Mathew Park, Temperance Park, Triangle Park*. Voted to have BComm be the sponsor for this space. Motioned: Mary Ellen Halliwell, Approved: Marcia Lambert. Ellen will look into having signs made up.

Front Street – there's a strip near the parking lot that now has mulch on it – the DPW probably put it down. (No loam b/c it's all hard pan).

Little space near Santander – Santander offered up four volunteers to help with watering.

Mill Street Median Strip – BCmm members voted on and approved \$230/not to exceed \$450 worth of materials for the urns on this strip. 10 hanging plants, 10 vincas, 5 spikes and 2 bags of soil. Ellen coordinated this effort with the DPW so that urns would be planted in time for the Pride Parade on June 24, 2017. It was decided (in April) that BComm would sponsor this median strip. Ellen will look into getting signs. Janice Manning did a big clean up along area by the train mural.

Central Street brown space – near Trolley and Emporium32 (Jillian and Nick Perry; contactemporium32@gmail.com). Sandi and Lisa speak with Jillian and Nick during Clean Sweeps and said we'd see if we could come up with some ideas for the space. The problem is, it's rootbound and sun is questionable; we'd be concerned about vandalism and would have to have something secure. Barb Sirois suggested birdbaths or troughs (2' x 5') with plants and river rocks at the base/in the space. Would have to somehow secure to the ground.

Sandi may speak with the folks at Merchant Inn to see if they want to sponsor the former HMA traffic island on Summer Street (at Intersection of Essex St/next to With City Consignment). It's got great visibility, is a marketing opp. Sandi may consider moving some plants from Riley Plaza to this traffic island.

Sam needs help with weeding on the Washington Street/RCG Sponsor strip; suggestions and volunteers are needed to help manage this space.

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

- The Ladies of Salem were put on their posts on May 30th. (Thanks Barb, Sam, Bev) It was a bit of a two-stage process (because of a problem with the clamps). The Ladies were up in time and adorned with jelly fish to complement the theme for **Salem Arts Festival June 2nd, 3rd, 4th**. This year's theme is *Tidal Shift*. Sam Fiore and Barb Sirois created **jellyfish decorations**. They looked great.
- The Lady of Salem project was represented at this year's **Sail Boston/Tall Ships event in June!** Sheila Billings was giving a figurehead painting demonstration at this event/Drydock #4 Charlestown Navy Yard and had LOS materials on hand for distribution. Mary Ellen H. ordered a lady figure head for Sheila, for this event. Home Depot donated paint.
- Creative Salem Lady will be installed soon.
- Events – **Maritime Festival** August 5th – Sheila Billings will give painting demonstration. LOS cut out for photos will be there, coloring papers/tables for kids. **Antique and Classic Boat Show** at Hawthorne Cove Marina August 26th. **Trails and Sails LOS Walking Tour**/Maps available September 23rd. VOLUNTEERS needed for Maritime and Boat Show.
- **Waite and Peirce** (Maritime/Exotic Goods Store on Derby St) would like to join forces with LOS again and possibly have a wine and cheese party, artist demonstration. Details to come. (NOTE: last year they hosted LOS for an afternoon and it was fun). Mary Ellen Halliwell to meet with subcommittee to discuss plans/options for this event. James Gilligan = contact.
- *Lady of Shalimar* – was vandalized and taken off its back board; will be repaired. Is in Mary Ellen's basement right now.
- LOS Subcommittee meeting on July 20th at Mary Ellen Halliwell's home.
- Other: LOS Rack Cards will be created – PO needed for/from Scarlet Letter Press; PO for figurehead – give to Ellen; Ted Kiley (sign guy) may be retiring and may opt out of supporting this project. Mary Ellen will call Ray Whittier – LOS will need a reliable person to help with hardware/backboards.

5. Clean Salem, Green Salem/Clean Sweeps – was May 6th, 2017 – 8:30a.m.–11:30a.m.

- It was a rainy day - Some members (Lisa, Bev, Sandi&team, Giulia, Ellen) focused clean up efforts (and mulching/loom?) on downtown areas including, Front Street (in front of parking lot), Beginning of Central Street and at Red's Diner – these flower beds were mulched last year. Depending on what appears to be coming back this year, we may not need to plant many things.
- New BComm shirts and vests were on display! They look great!
- Other volunteer groups were out picking up Bridge Street, other Salem spaces.
- Ellen had supplies and newly purchased 'grabbers.'
- Lisa and Sandi spoke with Emporium32 people about brown patch space outside their store – touching up. Possibly Trolley folks could pitch in \$\$/care for.

6. Plant Sale – was May 20th, 2017 on Salem Common – 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

- We had carts again this year!
- Sandi coordinated with **Darlene's Flowers** to order flowers
- We will have tomato plants from Peter Gibney this year and probably a few from Darlene's.
- Raffle items to include: Herb?/lettuce? Bowl (Sam)
- Giulia brought basil to have for sale, also
- CoffeeTime donated coffee and treats for BComm volunteers
- **Shop the Tarp** – gardening items were made available (free) to plant sale attendees.
- It was a great day. Plants sold quickly and we closed up shop about 12:30.

- We netted \$1,292 from the sale.
- Attached to these Meeting Minutes are the Plant Sale Financials from this year (2017) and last year (2016) for comparison

7. Misc. – Notes/reference spending for BComm 2017

- New BComm t-shirts and vests have been ordered (Gorilla Printing/Sandi coordinating). \$15.65/shirt, v-necks; safety vests \$12. Total \$434.
- Ongoing financial considerations:
- Peastone for Mill Street traffic island (\$\$ TBD)
- Mulch (traffic island \$ account)
- \$2,030 for Washington St. irrigation lines (voted/approved 3/28/17) (BComm funds)
- \$2K for water truck repairs (April 2017)
- \$few hundred for ‘grabbers’, supplies, clean sweeps pizza, etc., window box awards, etc. (April 2017)
- \$230 for Mill Street Urns (June 2017)
- \$125 spent for SATV window box (June 2017)

8. Ongoing for Reference - Calendar 2017 – BComm Activities

Lady of Salem @Maritime Festival – [August 5th @Derby Wharf 10:30 a.m.](#)

Traffic Island and Window Box Awards Event – [August 9th @5:30 p.m](#) (Probably at Pickering House on Broad Street)

Lady of Salem @35th Annual Antique Boat Show –[August 26th – @Hawthorne Cove Marina](#)

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 is July 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lyons

7/18/17

Addendum 1– Sandi Power Traffic Island Report to BCom meeting 6-27-17

This spring we have routinely gone out for 2 to 2 ½ hours every Wednesday morning. In addition volunteers working independently go out with me or independently to islands they have adopted.

Many mornings and hours were spent by our team on the **park at corner of Hawthorne and Derby**, abandoned by the Salem witches last summer, to restore it from a heavy infestation of witchgrass, ivy, and bindweed; to clear the stone dust paths of the encroaching grass; and to plant perennials. Piles of large stones and concrete curbstones were left on the sidewalk with a Free sign implanted. All were taken. We will be there again in the morning to plant and continue to try to eliminate the very tenacious bindweed. The volunteers are very enthusiastic about this now lovely garden and would very much like to sponsor it, or have BCom sponsor it.

The park appears to have no name, so we have dubbed it the **Father Mathew Park** in honor of the statue in the center. He was a very honored temperance priest from Cork County, Ireland, in the 1800's. We have asked the City for replacement stone dust and to remove a raised garden installed there during the Witches tenure. A second one has been scraped clean and will hopefully return to grass.

The two islands on Hawthorne Boulevard, sponsored by B&G Club and Fisher and Shaw, have been weeded, cleaned out, perennials and shrubs pruned, annuals planted. The Fisher and Shaw island has been adopted by Kathleen Cocozella who added some perky orange coreopsis to the perennials there

The **hosta islands** were freshened up, about 20 hostas donated and planted to replace those that didn't survive. Four volunteers from Santander Bank laid the mulch. Ray Jodoin, Tim O'Shea's replacement, was very helpful in this effort, raking it all out in advance.

Riley Plaza has had three morning visits to weed and prune. The Community Service workers laid three yards of mulch Friday, June 23rd, with the city supplying the wheelbarrows and shovels.

Volunteer Ileen Collins and Erica Pelletier have cleaned up the **three islands at the Lafayette/Loring intersection**. Erica is married to sponsor A Plus's business manager and was delighted to be asked to help with the three islands. She assisted in planting A Plus's island.

We weeded, pulled out many dead plants, bought and planted new ones in the new **Front Street sidewalk garden**. I have more to put in. The state put very little loam in this garden so replanting in hardpan was extremely difficult.

HMA did not sign up to sponsor the **median on Summer Street** so it is available for sponsorship. They appear to be closing their business.

Salem Chimney Company's island on Norman Street was run over and partially destroyed. We removed two, deeply rooted weed trees on the island, as well as dead plants in the island and the street, raked it out, and it has been minimally replanted and mulched by Salem Chimney.

The **active service island** was reinstalled but it was determined not to plant it until construction in the area is complete.

Lafayette Park is being partially demolished to make way for a new design. However, a last minute decision allowed us to keep the garden at the south end sponsored by Gorilla.

RCG has planted the area in front of Bank of America, previously barren.

They have completed the planting, mulching and the placing of urns on the Washington Street median strip under Sam's oversight. Sam will report on that.

Sandi Power
Chair, Traffic Island Program



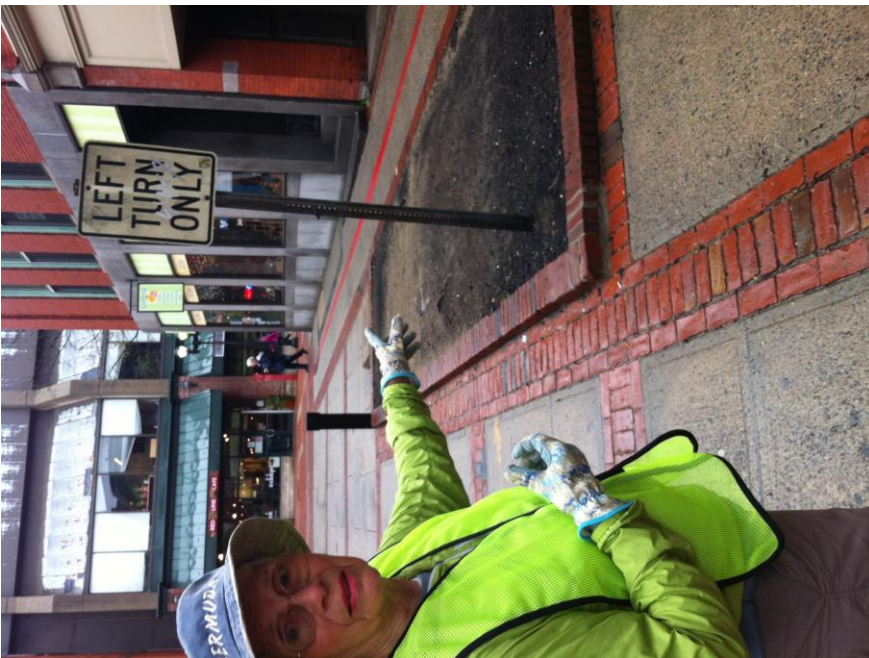
Mill Street Median Strip Urns (Thanks, Ellen!)



Denise and the SATV Window Box!



Colby and our new Plant Sale signs!



Sandi and the brown space on Central Street (sorry, I can't get pic to rotate)



Team BComm 2017



Our new BComm Vests!