

## **Salem Beautification Minutes from March 12, 2019**

Meeting started at 7:02

In attendance: Lisa Lyons, Sandi Power, Sam Fiore, Mary Ellen Haliwell, Giulia Bellofatto, Annie Scott, Stephanie Hagyard, and Staff Persons Ellen Talkowski, Kevin Cornacchio.

Absent: Ty Hapworth, Bill Doane, and Barbara Sirios.

The meeting started with an announcement by Ellen, that Kevin Cornacchio of the Parks Department will now be staffing the Beautification Committee and will be attending the meetings. Micaela Guglielmi who is on the Recycling Committee, will be performing the administrative duties for Kevin. Ellen provided a schedule of the 2019 meeting dates and deadline dates for submitting agenda items and meeting minutes.

In addition, Kevin will be handling the Bcomm account and submission of purchase orders and requisitions for any expenditures / projects. Ellen has asked that we be mindful of how we want to spend the funds before the money is swiped from the account (June/July-maybe longer due to our seasonal agenda), and she will send reports to Kevin of the available funds. Kevin will require that we submit detailed and direct itemizations for any expenditures / projects before he can submit a PO or Req.

Ellen will get more information regarding the funds for Mill Hill. There is money in the account that has been dedicated to Mill Hill, but cannot currently be used.

Sandi submitted a correction from the January minutes. The vines she pulled were from her front yard, not the back yard. Thanks Sandi.....glad you are no longer itchy and blotchy!

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed – motion to approve by Mary Ellen, seconded by Sam.

**Clean Sweeps** – May 4<sup>th</sup>, Rain or shine! Discussed coordinating our efforts again cleaning the YMCA parking lot, perhaps planting some flowers in the two beds. Sandi suggested purchasing a cheap wire fence to put around the beds. Annie suggested planting some seeds, and later planting some pollinator plugs after the plant sale. Also suggested planting some annuals this year and next year, perennials. Stephanie will reach out to someone at the YMCA to get involved and care for the plants. Lisa and Annie began a conversation about **Trash tag**, an incentive to get people to clean their parks. They fill up trash bags, take pictures posing with the trash they collected, and post the pictures to social media. The pictures showcase the good work they've done and make people aware of how much trash there is that needs to be cleaned. It will be on the Clean Sweeps flyer.

Annie did a pollinator class with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of Bates Elementary. Their teacher, Heidi Moeller was very interested so Annie will talk to her about Clean Sweeps and planting some pollinators or seeds at their project place. Giulia mentioned that when she was in grade school, they planted seeds in egg shells / cartons and placed them on the window sill. Everyone loved watching their seeds grow and it was a great learning experience. Annie liked the idea and wanted to talk about it at the April meeting. She would like to add “come learn about pollinators” on the Clean Sweeps flyer.

Lisa suggested reaching out to neighborhood associations and other school to make them aware that Clean Sweeps is a great opportunity. Promote tag lines “clean and grow” or “clean, plant and grow”. Sandy said she will reach out to parties and work on this.

The Bcomm focus: Clean the YMCA parking lot, getting Annie setup on the Commons, pizza party with water and snacks which can be obtained from WB Mason with a requisition.

**Plant Sale** – May 19<sup>th</sup>, Rain or shine! Sandi will work with Darlene’s to order the plants. The tomato plants did really well so we should get more plants this year than we did last year. We need raffle donations, and a glass donation jar. Also, tarp donations.....everyone loves something for free! We need to setup a table for the pollinator display. Annie will do a 20-minute pollinator class. We need to get all our signs together, Lisa will make up white signs with new dates and will need helping getting the signs up.

In an effort to bring in new volunteers to help take care of the traffic islands, we need to do some outreach at Clean Sweeps and the Plant Sale. Lisa suggested posting a “cheat sheet” at the sale of what is needed, a call for new committee members, or just volunteers for cleaning and care of the islands. Mary Ellen suggested a table dedicated to the Beautification committee with sign up sheets, photos, information about accessing the website. Giulia shared her story about coming to the Bcomm, and Lisa asked her if she would sit at that table.

**Ladies of Salem** – Due to some renovations at the YMCA, the Ladies have been moved from the basement of the Y to Camp Naumkeag at the Willows. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the LOS committee will check on the Ladies and take inventory of any repairs that may be necessary before installation, which will be before June 7<sup>th</sup>. Sam suggested (jokingly) painting a gray hair line part on the ladies to go along with this years theme which is “roots”.

Giulia and Sam are going to Scarlett Letter Press tomorrow to get prices for pamphlets and laminated card stock copies of the bios/artists visions. Detailed list will be needed for Kevin.

**Traffic Islands** – Waiting for cleanup weather. We discussed the bollards on the Washington Street Strip and the Riley Plaza block at the last meeting. The curb of Riley Plaza block will be painted yellow. Kevin will take care of getting the paint, rollers and will get more leaf bags.

Kevin pointed out that the island at Mason and Friend is neglected. Can we put them on someone’s list?

Mary Ellen asked about the city sponsoring a paid incentive to high school kids in the summer, to clean trash. Sandi mentioned that the city has someone doing that.

Lisa mentioned that Swampscott offers island sponsorship to the public. Do we want the public to sponsor some islands?

Annie would like to know if we can get a map of all the traffic islands.

Sandi brought up her concerns about Barbara Sirios and how we should handle her year long absence. Ellen briefly spoke to Domenic and unless there is someone waiting for an appointment, it is a moot point.

Motion to adjourn at 8:46

Respectfully submitted,

Giulia Bellofatto