

## WESTPORT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 23, 2014

**Present:** Kathy Groener, Mitzi Lyman, Barbara Levy, Linda Adelman, Betty Lou Cummings, Debra Kandrak, Claire Ford, Susan Loselle Guest: Jim Marpe

The meeting began with a visit from our First Selectman, Jim Marpe. He thanked our committee for serving the town and talked about our purpose being to look at opportunities to upgrade the existing public spaces all over town, to repurpose plots of property without significantly adding to the maintenance. Jim updated us on current and future projects taking place in our town and then took questions from our committee. He read our "charge" dated July 1986 (see attached) and suggested we review it and that number eight which states, "Generally assisting and participating in the beautification of all Town-owned properties," be moved to number one. Jim said he would like us to think of ways to attract more members to our group and would leave it to us to identify our priorities in engaging our energy to make our town look better.

**Treasurer's Report:** The committee has \$9,950.

**Adopt-A-Spot:** Mitzi has requested an updated list from Steve Edwards of all possible spots. She will also address the issue at the Post Road and Turkey Hill location.

**Baskets-on-Main:** As we have done in the past we will donate \$500 toward the purchase of spring flowers.

**Beautification Awards:** We have decided to put this on hold.

**Clean-up Day:** Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a.m. Our area is Jesup Green. Kathy will contact Dan Woog to try to arrange an interview with her and Stuart McCarthy.

### **Re-Greening**

**Street Trees:** Angela has arranged for three trees to be planted in front of the Westport Inn and one tree to be planted in front of Radio Shack which will replace the tree that was knocked down. Geigers will be planting these at a cost of \$375.00 each.

Dave Hawthorne of McDonalds contacted Linda to report that a tree came down. Angela will contact Geigers to have it replaced.

**Median:** Linda will contact Kowalsky to see if they will continue to mow this area.

### **Old Business:**

In 2010 this committee donated money to a project sponsored by the Westport Arts Center to redo the tunnel from the Parker Harding parking lot to Main Street. This project never went forward so the Westport Arts Center was contacted. They cannot find a record of our cashed check, but said that if we can prove the check was cashed they will reimburse us. Susan will try to resolve this matter.

**Veteran's Green:** Kathy reviewed the plan for Veteran's Green. Our goal is to have a vibrant park that is truly part of Main Street. The plan would include a walkway through the park, Royal Burgundy cherry trees along the perimeter, a 20-foot Spruce that could become the new Westport Christmas Tree, a perennial herb garden around the memorial, markers near the trees, herbs, and flowers giving their names, benches, year round lighting around the perimeter with the center of the park left open for large events.

Kathy reported on her meeting with First Selectman Jim Marpe and Dewey Loselle (Chair of Downtown Steering Committee) where she discussed our plan for Veteran's Green. It was a positive meeting and Jim suggested the next step would be to talk to the Historical Society since a part of this area is designated a historic district. Also according to Stuart McCarthy there is a telephone pole in the middle of the sidewalk that has to be addressed. Kathy will meet with the appropriate people to get more information on these issues. Susan will join her at the meeting regarding the telephone pole.

The meeting began at 4:05pm and was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 4:00pm in room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Loselle  
Westport Beautification Committee

## CHARGE

### BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Please consider the following items in your efforts as members of the Beautification Committee:

1. The continuation of the Post Road and Main Street tree-planting program.
2. The coordination of sidewalks and planting within the "green" frontage required by the Planning and Zoning Commission site plan.
3. The beautification and preservation of parks along the Saugatuck River, with projects similar to the Pasacreta Park.
4. Assisting and participating in beautification of parking lot areas.
5. Working with the Public Works Department on the beautification aspect of intersection improvements
6. Exploring alternate ways and means of funding for beautification.
7. Implementation of programs in recognition for private beautification efforts.
8. Generally assisting and participating in the beautification of all Town-owned properties.

July 1986