

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023

Members Present:

Violet Baldwin – Chair
Paul Paleologopoulos
Gina Fusick (3:10)
Karla Callahan

Members Absent:

Krista Sapelli
Tara Cross
Marianne Joyce
William Raymond

Also Present:

Stefanie Kesecker
Al Fini

Chairperson Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:15 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes-April 18, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Mr. Paleologopoulos to approve the minutes of April 18, 2023.

VOTE 4-0-0

2. Barrels

Mr. Fini stated over 80 barrels had been planted and a few urns for Town Hall. He supplied the Committee with a list of where the barrels will be placed. Ms. Baldwin stated some of the sponsors had requested certain locations and the Committee will accommodate as many of those as possible. Ms. Kesecker informed the Commission about the barrel sponsors. Since the last meeting, the Committee has received sponsorship from 23 past sponsors, 20 new sponsors, and the total amount of sponsorship to date is \$5,900. Mr. Paleologopoulos asked what the sponsorship total was last season. Ms. Kesecker stated that last season the total sponsorship was \$4,800. Ms. Baldwin stated some of the past sponsors have not yet sponsored, but most likely will. Ms. Callahan asked if there was a list of who had and had not sponsored. Ms. Kesecker shared her spreadsheet of sponsorship with the Committee. Ms. Baldwin stated a lot of new sign brackets have to be made for the new sponsorship. Ms. Baldwin will meet with Mario Mazza, DPW Superintendent this week to have the placards made and painted green, and CHR Engraving will add the names of individuals and businesses that have sponsored this program. Ms. Baldwin asked Mr. Fini when the barrels will go out. He stated they are normally placed on a Saturday or Sunday. This year Mr. Fini stated it should be the weekends of June 4 or June 11, 2023, weather dependent, as there is less traffic. Ms. Baldwin stated she would meet with Mr. Fini when the barrels are placed. No barrels are placed

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023

across from St. John's The Evangelist church due to the wetness. She stated across from the Agawam Center Cemetery there is a lot of sun and is a good location for barrels. Ms. Callahan suggested Suffield Street as a good placement location for the barrels, as a lot of individuals who pass by, as well as Connecticut residents, and it is the entrance to Agawam from Route 57. Ms. Fusick stated it would be best not to place the barrels near any of the construction areas.

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and seconded by Ms. Callahan to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 4-0-0

3. Light Pole Planters

Mr. Fini stated the light pole planters will be going out after Memorial Day, most likely the first week of June, 2023. Ms. Baldwin stated she would speak to Howard Rogers, Dept. Superintendent DPW Hwy/Grounds to have the brackets lowered for the light pole planters.

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Mr. Paleologopoulos to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 4-0-0

4. Anne Sullivan Memorial

Ms. Baldwin stated this item had been discussed at the last meeting and Ms. Joyce had discussed something more colorful, but Ms. Baldwin thinks the hostas will do well, as there is already bulbs planted. Ms. Baldwin asked the Committee their thoughts on the Anne Sullivan Memorial. Ms. Fusick stated that the hostas will do well. Ms. Baldwin suggested variegated hostas as watering is difficult in this area.

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and seconded by Ms. Callahan to keep this item on the agenda.

VOTE 4-0-0

5. Main Street Project

Ms. Baldwin informed the Commission that this project is completed and Decaro Landscape Services & Garden Center Inc. assisted with the landscaping and planting. Ms. Fusick stated the area looks very nice. Ms. Baldwin stated 160 plants were placed here, all perennials and the funding for this project will be partially supported by Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC), and she has submitted this to CPAC. She went on to say Decaro Landscape Services will water the plants, as they are responsible for making sure the plants thrive. Ms. Kesecker suggested Ms. Callahan or Ms. Cross could take pics of the Main Street corridor to put on the Committee's Facebook page, to display the Committee's work.

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and seconded by Ms. Callahn to take agenda items out of order.

VOTE 4-0-0

8. Federal Street

Ms. Baldwin stated there are two locations on Federal Street, one at the top of the hill and one at the bottom by two benches. Ms. Baldwin went on site and stated the area needs refurbished and will take a lot of digging. She stated there are existing plants onsite that need to be taken care of and new plants will not have to come out of the Committee's budget. Ms. Callahan asked if this location was something that would need to be maintained. Ms. Baldwin stated maintenance would be minimal as most of the plants are slow growing and well established and may only need a trim every 2 to 3 years. Ms. Baldwin stated if the Committee needs to replace the plants they will, but it is unlikely they will need to be replaced.

9. Senior Center

Ms. Baldwin informed the Committee the Senior Center was not funded by Beautification, but by CPAC, Senior Center Budget, and the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center Inc. Ms. Baldwin worked with Decaro Landscape Services to complete this project. Mr. Fini stated Ms. Cross had shared pictures of this project on the Facebook page, and he had shared it with it on the Agawam/Feeding Hills Facebook forum and received a good response. Ms. Baldwin stated she had also received some phone calls from those individuals appreciating this project. Ms. Baldwin stated there are about 64-68 plants: agilia, lilac, yellow roses, forsythia, hostas, coral berries, and the signature piece is the red Japanese maple tree. Some of the items were removed that were not thriving and an eyesore. She stated the area will fill in nicely and have color some stones was placed by the electric box so any work done there would not destroy any plants. She stated the area has an irrigation system so it will receive water. Ms. Baldwin stated once the barrels go out the area will look vivid.

Motion was made by Ms. Fusick and seconded by Mr. Paleologopoulos to put the agenda items back in order.

VOTE 4-0-0

6. Correspondence

Ms. Kesecker stated she would send reminders with the next agenda and draft of the minutes to remind the Committee members of the new location for meeting at the Senior Center. Ms. Baldwin asked the Committee if anyone had any correspondence to share and there was none. Mr. Baldwin will meet with Mr. Fini a few days before the barrels are placed. Ms. Kesecker will inform the Committee the date this will occur, if anyone wants to assist.

7. Letters

Ms. Kesecker informed the Committee that 304 letters were sent to local businesses and past sponsors to seek support for the program this year. She stated so far there has been a total of 59 sponsors. Some sponsors have supported as many as 5 barrels and some 2, while most individuals or businesses have 1 barrel. There is 23 past sponsors who have supported, and 20 new sponsors,

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023

with the expectation that more sponsorship will be coming in, in the next few weeks. The Committee is to date \$1,100 ahead of last years' total sponsorship. Ms. Baldwin stated some of the new sponsors have supported as many as 2 barrels. Mr. Fini stated having more barrels sponsored shows an enthusiasm among the town for the barrels.

10. Any topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate.

There were no items.

Motion was made by Ms. Callahan and seconded by Ms. Fusick to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 4:14pm.

The next meeting will be June 20, 2023.