

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

September 19, 2023

Members Present:

Violet Baldwin – Chair
Paul Paleologopoulos
Gina Fusick
William Raymond
Tara Cross
Karla Callahan

Members Absent:

Krista Sapelli
Marianne Joyce

Also Present:

Stefanie Kesecker
Al Fini (3:10pm)

Chairperson Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

1. Approval of Minutes-August 15, 2023

Motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Cross to approve the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

VOTE 4-0-2(Callahan/Cross)

2. Barrels

Ms. Baldwin stated she had received a nice comment from Rosemary Sandlin thanking the Beautification Committee for adding mums to the barrels. Ms. Baldwin stated this could be something we do in the future, but a more vivid color of mums would be needed for a more vibrant showing. Ms. Baldwin also suggested a trifecta of plants, including petunias, potato vine, and coleus. She asked the Committee to think about this possibility for the barrels next season. Ms. Baldwin asked Mr. Raymond what his thoughts were on this trifecta of plants. Mr. Raymond responded that potato vines always do well as long as enough water is provided and there are many varieties of coleus. Mr. Fini stated the barrels this season had a few problems and many dried out too quickly. He stated fungicide was applied in the middle of July and in August when it was reapplied and the application was too weak. Mr. Fini stated when he noticed the dying petunias he replaced them with mums, 46 replacement mums in total, at no charge to the Committee. Ms. Baldwin asked about the barrels in West Springfield looking more vibrant than ours. Mr. Fini stated in parts of West Springfield the plants are dead as well. Ms. Baldwin and Mr. Raymond stated Mr. Fini had been doing a great job each barrel season. Ms. Baldwin brought up the trifecta

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

September 19, 2023

of plants for next season. Ms. Baldwin stated she received a call from Pat Garbacik, with the West Springfield Garden Club, who expressed her disappointment with the flowers on the bridge. She stated there was not a lot of color and the flowers did not appear healthy. Ms. Baldwin stated she informed her, it was Western Growers, which the Committee used last season, and who made the plant selections. Ms. Cross stated one of the planters was missing. Mr. Raymond stated it could have been the amount of rain that made the plants appear as they did. Mr. Fini stated Western Growers used petunias and when first planted the petunias were visible, but potato vines were added which overtook the petunias. Mr. Fini stated there was also a budworm infestation in the planters and it was difficult to spray the back of the hangers. Ms. Baldwin asked the Committee how they would like to proceed for next year. Ms. Cross stated the Committee was happy with the planters at first. The rest of the Committee members agreed to keep the planters on the bridge for next season. Ms. Baldwin stated the Committee relies on several people including Mr. Fini to grow the plants, to place the barrels and DPW to hang the planters, as well as placing the signs into the barrels. Ms. Baldwin stated she had asked if West Springfield Garden Club could have their DPW put up the planters, but they were unable to do so. Ms. Callahan expressed her desire to exclude West Springfield Garden Club next year. Mr. Raymond stated he felt it was a good idea for the Committee to do this project solo.

Ms. Baldwin thanked Mr. Fini for replacing the petunias with mums. Ms. Baldwin asked the Committee if this was something they would like to continue. Mr. Fini stated he was thinking of putting the barrels out earlier next year and removing them the weekend after Labor Day. Ms. Fusick asked how long the mums last. Mr. Fini responded 4 to 6 weeks. Ms. Cross recommended upping the fee of the barrels and having both petunias and mums. Ms. Cross asked about changing the color of the petunias. Ms. Callahan stated she would like to see something in orange and it would stand out nicely in the barrels. Ms. Baldwin stated Mr. Fini would need to show the Committee what colors were available. Mr. Fini stated he would need the color selection by the October 17, 2023 meeting. Ms. Baldwin stated the color palette of the barrels would be decided at the next Committee meeting.

Ms. Baldwin stated she would like to have 3 barrels added in front of the Main Street Fire Station. Ms. Fusick stated she would like to see more barrels in the Feeding Hills area. Ms. Baldwin then asked the Committee how many barrels they would like for next season. The Committee settled upon 100 barrels for next season up from 85 this year. Ms. Baldwin stated she would reach out to West Springfield Garden Club. She also stated she would reach out to Western Growers and to ask to make the plants as showy and vibrant as possible for next season. Ms. Baldwin stated if Western Growers cannot store them she would have DPW pick them up.

Motion was made by Ms. Cross and seconded by Ms. Fusick to have 100 barrels next season.

VOTE 6-0-0

Motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Fusick to place the barrels out sooner in the season.

VOTE 6-0-0

AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

September 19, 2023

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

VOTE 6-0-0

3. Pynchon Point

Ms. Baldwin informed the Committee about the Westfield River Watershed Fall Clean-up on October 14, 2023. Ms. Baldwin stated Ms. Kesecker would contact the Girl Scout troop who contacted the Committee to clean up here as well, so they could coordinate with the Westfield River Watershed Fall Clean-Up. Ms. Baldwin stated when both of these entities are finished with clean-up the Committee could go and do a final touch up of the area, including mulching and trimming the perennials.

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

VOTE 6-0-0

4. Correspondence

Nothing for this agenda item.

5. Any topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate

Ms. Baldwin thanked Mr. Paleologopoulos for all his help and assistance. Ms. Baldwin thanked Mr. Raymond for his work on the Anne Sullivan Memorial and stated it looked great. Ms. Fusick stated the Anne Sullivan Memorial looked wonderful and everyone who stopped in the area had stated how nice it looked. Ms. Callahan asked about the budget. Ms. Baldwin stated we were waiting on the distribution from Berkshire Power, but Ms. Kesecker could bring the updated budget to the next meeting.

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

VOTE 6-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm.