

TRUMBULL BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – January 27, 2009

PRESENT: Elizabeth Casey, Ken Martin, Bob Marconi, Patricia Pavia; Patricia Wright

ABSENT: Sharon Altieri; Debi Miller

GUEST: Dimitris Paris; Eileen Cordone (UI)

The meeting of the Trumbull Beautification Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by K. Martin. Attendance was noted and a quorum was had.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting were discussed. E. Casey motioned that the minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting be accepted as presented, with a notation that Patricia Pavia's name is misspelled (Paviz) on page 3 of the Minutes. B. Marconi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financial Report was not available. K. Martin did indicate that the \$2,000 donation from the Mallet Charitable Trust is in the account. There is no change to the amount in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial account.

TOWN HALL MARQUEE: The Commission members discussed with Dimitris Paris the overall appearance and need for updating of the walking areas surrounding the Town Hall and in particular the marquee. Comments were made regarding the condition of the grass areas and inquiry made as to how to increase the plantings and aesthetic look around the building – possibly to mirror or compliment the plantings across the street at Stop & Shop. It was noted that the grassy area around the Town Hall does take a lot of abuse with various town events held on it, people walking, table set ups, etc.

Mr. Paris indicated that he is aware of the lack of eye appeal in the area and agreed that some improvement is needed. He explained that there is a problem with irrigation and that in the past, the irrigation system had created water inside the basement of the building and therefore, cannot be used. Because of this, the plantings do not receive the water they require and therefore cannot thrive.

He is, however, looking into ways to try to modify that problem. It was also suggested that plantings be put in the front of the Town Hall on either side of the main walkway in order to dress up the front of the building.

He also explained about the footings surrounding the marquee and that planting in that area is very difficult. It was suggested that maybe instead of actual "in ground" plantings, that planters be used on either side of the marquee so that seasonal plants could be used to soften the look of the sides of the structure.

Regarding updating the marquee itself, Mr. Paris indicated that years ago, a design had been created whereby the interior portion of the marquee would replicate the old Town Hall message board. His recollection was that it was an expensive undertaking, possibly \$3,000-\$4,000 and that Sign Maintenance still has the plan design. He indicated that he would contact them and obtain both a copy of the design and

an updated estimate and present that to the Commission for their review. Any modification or update to the marquee would also involve the running of a new electrical line and light as the one that exists now is not operational. B. Marconi will work with Mr. Paris and report back at the next meeting.

UI GRANT: Eileen Cordone of The United Illuminating Company, spoke to the Commission members regarding the Corporate Contributions Program. She indicated that they receive a budget in the beginning of the year, however, they have not received any budget monies yet this year. She indicated that there are many applications that have already been submitted and that if the Commission wanted to submit an application, they should regardless of the fact that a budget has not yet been set.

She indicated that they like to focus on direct programs some of which involve social development; affordable housing; education; arts & culture and the environment; youth programs; matters of ecology and career development. They do not fund travel or individuals and generally only fund those programs that are in their covered areas. They have in the past, given money to the Derby Historical Society and there presently is an application pending for the Lordship Historical Society. Ms. Cordone indicated that generally the first grant amount is in the amount of \$1,000-\$2,000. Once the application is reviewed, a decision is generally made within two weeks. One important note is that this program will not fund any request that they deem to be the responsibility of the Town. Therefore any request put in for grant monies must be for a project, which the Commission does or wants to do independent of Town property.

One of the requirements is that the organization requesting the grant monies be a 501c3 (exempt under the rules of the IRS) and if not, then the organization must work through a fiduciary agent. K. Martin will check with the Town's legal staff to see if the Commission qualifies under a 501c3 or what steps the Commission could take in order to take advantage of this program.

A suggestion was made that a possible project for submission to the UI grant program would be the Daffodil Giveaway, which we would do in the fall in conjunction with the Arts Festival. P. Wright motioned that P. Pavia research the cost of the bulbs so that we could have an idea as to how many \$1,000 or \$1,500 would buy. E. Casey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:

There were no nominations for awards.

#### NATURE CENTER UPDATE:

There was no update at this meeting.

SCENIC ROAD DESIGNATION FOR RT. 108: K. Martin indicated that he submitted a partial application to the State. He still needs to send in additional information (e.g., pictures; measurements, etc). Once that is submitted, a representative from the State will contact him and set up a time to "drive" the road to see if everything fits into the requirements for the road to be designated as a scenic road.

Once that application and process is complete for Rt. 108, the Commission will look into the area on Tashua Road, near the large white church

**JOSEPH KRISAK MEMORIAL PLANTING:** This planting will be accomplished in the spring. P. Pavia indicated that she sent a card to Millie Krisak informing her of the intentions of the Commission to plant Winter Berry Bush(es) in Joseph Krisak's honor. The Commission has allocated \$150.00 and B. Marconi will purchase as many as he can with this amount.

**RAMP PROJECT:** K. Martin and E. Casey spoke with the DOT regarding the Adopt-A-Ramp(Spot) program which the Commission has sponsored. There have been many changes and the DOT now does not allow the adoption of a spot. This would encompass the Rt. 25/111 Memorial area that was discussed at the last meeting. The Little League had spoken with P. Pavia about possibly adopting that area, but now this cannot be done. The DOT will only allow the adoption of ramp areas and those areas that are not ramps, which have been adopted in the past, have been "grandfathered in", however no other spots will be allowed.

It was shared with the Commission that one way to handle the problem of control over areas, permits, signage, etc. has been handled by some Towns who sponsor this type of program, and the DOT agreed, is for this Commission to take out a permit for every available ramp area. This way, if a corporate sponsor wanted to adopt an area, they would have to come through the Commission, present their plan, and follow the guidelines set by the Commission (which will follow the rules of the State where applicable). All members felt this would be a good idea. P. Pavia inquired as to whether that would mean that those areas which the Commission would pull permits for would have to also be maintained by the Commission until they were adopted. That will have to be clarified with the DOT.

Discussion was also had regarding clarification as to what areas require state permits and that areas that are Town properties never required any permit but rather signed a sponsorship agreement.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the entire program needs to be overhauled and updated. All of the old permits which the Commission has on file (which may not be complete and all of which have expired, however may have been renewed directly with the state) need to be reviewed for accuracy; if those parties are still maintaining the areas, they will be given the option of renewing and complying with the new rules and regulations to be set in place by the Commission or relinquish their area. An up to date list of ramp locations (and grandfathered spots) needs to be compiled, dates of permit renewal (if applicable) re-writing of the application/form letters/sponsorship agreements/landscape requirements/sign specifications, etc.

An old list of ramp and spot locations was available for review. That list is not accurate and a complete list will be made. Some locations that were discussed as being available are: Exit 47 N&S; Exit 51 N&S; Route 8 Exit 10 by Trumbull Industrial Park N&S; Route 8 Exit 7; Merritt Parkway Exit for 25S on to Old Town Road (both directions); Penny Lane – Exit 8 off Route 8 (both ways) Route 8 N by Hawley Lane; Route 8 S onto Route 108; Exit 25S & N - Daniels Farm Road; Pump Station at Madison Avenue/Buck Hill Road.

It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Commission, that this issue will take full focus of the meeting and all other items on the agenda will be addressed time permitting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Some members of the Commission still need to be re-appointed. Please be sure to take care of this prior to the next meeting.

P. Wright motioned that the meeting be adjourned. P. Pavia seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Butler, Clerk