

TRUMBULL BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – June 28, 2011

PRESENT: Doug Carey, Laura Ponzio, Patricia Pavia, Mildred Krisak

The meeting of the Trumbull Beautification Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by D. Carey. Attendance was noted and a quorum was had.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting were discussed. P. Pavia motioned that the minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting be accepted as presented. M. Krisak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financial Report was reviewed. There is a balance of \$2,335.40 in the general account and a balance of \$2,539.35 in the Vietnam Memorial account. L. Ponzio motioned to accept the Financial Report. P. Pavia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: There were no new or old Beautification Awards to discuss.

ADOPT A SPOT PROGRAM: The State of Connecticut contacted D. Carey regarding the insurance needed to run the program. D. Carey received the information from Town Hall and has forwarded it to the appropriate State department.

D. Carey received a complaint from the State regarding the upkeep of the two “Spots” sponsored by the Ganim Law firm. D. Carey spoke with Ganim and he was told they would contact their landscaper about fixing the problem. L. Ponzio mentioned that the signs for the Ganim Law Firm are higher than regulations permit. D. Carey will contact Sign Maintenance and request the two signs be lowered.

The sponsorship sign for the Ganim Law Firm located at Chestnut Hill & Madison Ave continues to generate complaints. P. Pavia mentioned that she had received complaints about the signs and that residents are concerned about safety. She said that some residents have told her that they had to pull far out onto Madison Avenue in order to see if it’s safe to turn. D. Carey has also been receiving complaints about the signs.

The Commission has been contacted about the height of the sign by two Trumbull Planning & Zoning members, who said the signs don’t meet planning and zoning regulations, as well as town resident Loretta Chory, and a second town resident who lives near Chestnut Hill. Mrs. Chory had previously spoken with the First Selectman regarding this issue. D. Carey will send an email to the First Selectman requesting he revisit his decision on the Ganim sign on Chestnut Hill. This location is Town property and the commission cannot over rule the First Selectman.

D. Carey stated that L. Nugent wished the minutes to reflect that she is still very opposed to the spot at Chestnut Hill being given to the Ganim Law Firm and she feels the Commission lost \$1,500.00 because the spot was already planted when it was taken over by Ganim. The consensus on this issue was unanimous.

P. Pavia received a call from the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce regarding the Commission's Adopt-A-Spot program. They wanted to know whether the sponsors of the spots are responsible for cleaning the highway ramps near the spots. D. Carey let them know that the sponsors are only responsible for keeping their immediate area clean. P. Pavia said that they seemed interested in starting a program similar to the Beautification Commission's. D. Carey said he let them know that he could forward information about the program to them if they were interested in knowing more, but they haven't responded yet.

D. Carey noted that Vazzy's sign has been repaired and new landscaping was installed. A "thank you" was sent recognizing their efforts.

**MEMORIAL PARK:** P. Pavia contacted Town Hall and the State to determine ownership of the property at the intersection of Churchill Road and Old Churchill Road. She learned that it is owned by the State and that if the land were turned over to the town to build a park it could only be used for that purpose. She drafted a request letter and D. Carey said he forwarded it to T. Herbst on June 28<sup>th</sup> for review, since the letter requires the First Selectman's signature. The commission will follow up to see if it was sent before the next meeting.

D. Carey visited Swenson Granite Works. He passed a flyer around that listed the prices and different designs available for the granite benches they sell. The benches can be engraved at an additional cost and they also sell granite birdbaths that can be engraved as well. He mentioned that they also sell square posts with two rough sides and two smooth sides and suggested that those could be engraved with quotes or historical information and placed throughout the park. P. Pavia suggested using gravel to make paths in the park in order to give it a more natural look. D. Carey agreed.

L. Ponzio said that Trumbull Community Women will be purchasing a bench for the park and that she would put an estimated cost for the bench in their budget this summer.

**TREE FUNDRAISER:** D. Carey said that L. Nugent had done a lot of work on the proposed fundraiser over the past month. D. Carey said that the website the commission was thinking of ordering tree saplings from doesn't ship Kousa Dogwoods after June 30<sup>th</sup>. L. Nugent had researched other alternatives, including whether the commission could sell rose bushes or hydrangeas. D. Carey said that if they can find a venue during the summer at which to sell plants, he and Liz will purchase a small amount with personal funds. They are considering creating order forms to limit the potential loss of funds spent on unsold plants..

**SIGNS:** D. Carey questioned the legality of real estate signs on street corners. P. Pavia stated that they are illegal and that signs aren't allowed to be placed on any town, state, or private property. The only land the signs can be placed on is the property where the event is going to be held and the sign must be placed and removed the same day as the event. No signs, other than the sponsor sign, are allowed on Adopt-A-Spot land either.

**SUMMER BREAK:** The next meeting of the Beautification Meeting will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Nichols Room at Town Hall. D. Carey mentioned moving the meeting to

September 20<sup>th</sup> instead, due to scheduling conflicts with some of the members. The commission agreed and will look into having it rescheduled.

D. Carey motioned that the meeting be adjourned. P. Pavia seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lusebrink, Clerk