

TRUMBULL BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – September 20, 2011

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

ABSENT: Sharon Altieri

GUEST: Judy Nighland

The meeting of the Trumbull Beautification Commission was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by D. Carey. Attendance was noted and a quorum was had.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the June 28, 2011 meeting were discussed. L. Ponzio asked that the minutes reflect that while it was stated that the Ganim Law Firm signs on their Adopt-A-Spots were non-conforming, it was not her who said it. P. Pavia motioned that the minutes of the June 28, 2011 meeting be accepted as presented. D. Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financial Report was reviewed. There is a balance of \$2,165.85 in the general account and a balance of \$2,539.35 in the Vietnam Memorial account. L. Nugent motioned to accept the Financial Report. L. Ponzio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: There were no new Beautification Awards to discuss. D. Carey mentioned that one of the homes nominated at the June meeting, 14 Blackhouse Road, had been sold during the nomination process. He said the award would be updated to reflect this.

P. Pavia suggested that each Commission member try to bring a few award nominees for the October meeting.

ADOPT A SPOT PROGRAM: The signs for the Ganim Law Firm located at the Merritt Parkway have been lowered and their sign at the Chestnut Hill/Madison Avenue spot has been switched for a new one. All signs are now conforming.

L. Nugent asked if the spot given to the Ganim Law Firm had been paid for by the firm. D. Carey said that he is unsure, but that it would be the town's responsibility to collect that money, since the town offered them that spot.

MEMORIAL PARK: P. Pavia spoke with the state of Connecticut. The Commission has been granted the land at the intersection of Churchill Road and Old Churchill Road to use for the Memorial Park. She said that while there is no plan to change traffic on Churchill Road at the moment, the Commission will need to insure that a specific amount of land close to Churchill Road remain undeveloped in case the road does need to be altered. P. Pavia will let the Commission know how much land would be required.

P. Pavia said that the Commission can approach the Parks Department and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Department for approval.

L. Ponzio asked about funding. P. Pavia said the Commission can research state and federal grants and funding from military organizations. She suggested the Commission contact Deborah Cox to see if she would be able to assist in writing proposals for any grants the Commission learns about. D. Carey asked how much the project may cost. P. Pavia said that a statue could cost a significant amount and it depends on the design of the memorial. L. Ponzio said that the Trumbull Community Women have set aside money to purchase a granite bench for the park.

P. Pavia said that work could begin on the park as soon as the fall of 2012 or spring of 2013. L. Ponzio suggested the Commission approach major corporations in town for donations at that point.

MALLET TRUST: D. Carey sent the annual letter to the Trust giving an update on all the projects the Commission accomplished in 2011. It came labeled as unable to forward. D. Carey said that they had moved, but he already sent the letter to the new address. He said that he specifically mentioned the memorial park and historical society greenhouse as projects they would like to begin working on in the near future and that he hopes the Trust may be able to donate a little more money for those projects.

P. Pavia asked about the Jones Fund and whether the Commission had received funding from them. D. Carey said he had never heard of the Jones Fund and several members of the Commission agreed. P. Pavia said she would look into whether the Commission still receives funding from them.

P. Pavia asked if the Commission had received any money from the town to cover the Clerk's expenses. D. Carey said he had not seen anything in the Commission's budget reflecting that. He said that he will look into it since it appears that the Clerk's expenses are currently being covered by money given to the Commission by the Mallet Trust.

ANNUAL REPORT: D. Carey has finished the annual report.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY GREENHOUSE: D. Carey sent an email to Commission members in July concerning a greenhouse that Ken Martin, President of the Historical Society, had told him about. The greenhouse belongs to the town and is located near the Historical Society Center and is in need of refurbishing. K. Martin mentioned that if the Commission refurbishes the greenhouse they may be able to rent it for an extended period of time from the town. D. Carey, L. Nugent, and L. Ponzio saw the greenhouse and D. Carey believes that it has potential and it could be useful since the Commission does a lot of work with plants. D. Carey said that K. Martin believes the Commission may be able to get matching funds through donations and grants to cover the cost of the refurbishment.

D. Carey mentioned that if the Commission were to rent the greenhouse it would provide a location for long term fundraising. He also said that the Historical Society hosts events

throughout the year at the Center and the Commission could hold fundraisers related to those events.

M. Krisak asked if the Commission would grow plants in the greenhouse. D. Carey said the Commission would probably buy plants and store them in the greenhouse for a short period of time before fundraisers. L. Ponzio asked if the greenhouse would be seen as competition for the Vocational Agriscience Center, located at Trumbull High School. D. Carey said it might be, but they are in different parts of town and should not be too big of a problem.

P. Pavia asked how much the project might cost. D. Carey said he wasn't sure, but that it would not cost as much as the memorial park or take money away from that project. P. Pavia asked about how long the Commission would be able to lease the building and D. Carey said he would need to ask the Parks Department and town. P. Pavia also asked about the cost of maintaining the building. D. Carey said he doesn't know and would need to ask the town about who would be responsible for paying for the electricity and heating.

P. Pavia suggested doing more research before committing to anything. L. Nugent suggested taking a vote on whether the Commission should research the project further. The vote was unanimous in favor of doing more research.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: J. Nighland showed interest in accepting one of the vacant seats on the Commission. The appropriate parties will be contacted concerning the appointment.

D. Carey motioned that the meeting be adjourned. P. Pavia seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lusebrink, Clerk