

**Town of Glastonbury
Community Beautification Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

1. Roll Call

Present: Robert Shipman, Chairman
Jarrod Sansoucy, Secretary
Linda DeGroff
Debra DeVries-Dalton

Excused: Della Winans, Vice Chairman and Kate Morgan

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 12, 2019

Debra moved to accept the minutes as written; all in favor 4-0.

3. 70 OAK STREET – proposal for construction of a 5,187± square foot motor vehicle carwash together with 25 parking spaces with vacuums – Attorney Meghan Hope - Car Wash Services M.D., LLC, applicant

Attorney Meg Hope presented the project to the Committee. Kevin Grindle, LA, Anchor Engineering, presented the landscape plan.

Bob had expressed concern about the lack of trees on the south corner of the property (the corner of Oak Street and Kreiger Lane). Suggestions were made: Magnolia virginiana, cedar, Amelanchier, Locust.

Bob emphasized the need to properly prune red twig dogwoods so they keep their natural form as opposed to shearing them tightly and ruining their free and open growth habit, thus enhancing the red stems on young growth. Shearing encourages old and mature growth which is instead a dull ugly gray color with poor vigor.

Debra expressed concern about the white pines along the property line. As they mature, the white pines become bare-branched at the bottom and no longer offer a buffer. Jarrod agreed and suggested switching them to Vanderwolf pines instead, and at the same time, stagger the planting to have a more natural look.

Debra questioned whether sugar maples have been suffering from climate change or other environmental conditions. While she likes the species, she questioned whether a certain variety might do better than another or whether a species change might fare better, such as Legacy, Green Mountain or Commemoration maples might be better suited.

The plant legend shows 2 tillia but the plan only has one on it. There was a suggestion to make one of the stewartias a tillia and move the one stewartia to a new location.

All members thought the area between the vacuum and driveway could have more plantings; the plan shows ilex densa. It was thought to group the ilex densa along with some PJM rhododendron would be better.

Linda agreed with all the changes and suggestions made by others.

No vote was taken; the Committee asked to have the changes made and for the plan to be reviewed at the September meeting.

4. 49 SYCAMORE STREET – modification to the approved landscaping plan – Gerry Vitti, applicant

Gerry Vitti presented pictures and a small plan drawn by American Landscape (contractor installing the already approved landscape at this property).

The new concern was along the north property line. After construction was started it was realized this area had a pretty severe grade change and sickly plants infested with bittersweet. They did get permission to remove the hedge, lower the grade, and install a new hedge row on the abutter's property.

The plan was presented and Committee liked the plant selections, however, they asked that the layout be revisited, making it a looser look and not so stamped out. Bob is going to talk to American Landscape and show them a better layout.

It was noted that the property also has 1 dead tree and 1 declining tree that should be addressed prior to the building opening; these two trees are located on the south property line.

Debra made motion to approve the request made with the minor changes and Bob visiting with the contractor. Jarrod seconded; all in favor 4-0.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Meg Hope presented a minor change to the 340 Hebron Avenue plan, already approved by the Committee. After a further look at the project it was noted a stormwater system that will be placed under the parking lot and landscape islands on the west side of the building will impact three trees. It was suggested two birch trees be changed to Dawyck purple beech trees, moving them closer to the building. The one approved maple tree in a parking lot island was eliminated as there would no room for even a smaller tree's root system to grow without affecting the stormwater system. No vote was needed the changes will be made by the LA Stephanie Fuss.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

Respectfully submitted,

Jarrod Sansoucy