

**Town of Glastonbury
Community Beautification Committee
Amended Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

The meeting started at 7:05pm.

1. Roll Call

Present: Linda DeGroff
Candice Mark
Kate Morgan
Robert Shipman
Della Winans

Absent: Debra DeVries-Dalton
Jarrod Sansoucy

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kate Morgan moved and Candice Mark seconded a motion to re-elect Robert Shipman as Chairman; Della Winans as Vice Chair; and Jarrod Sansoucy as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2019

Motion to accept by Della Winans, seconded by Candice Mark, approved 5-0.

b. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2019

Motion to accept by Della Winans, seconded by Kate Morgan, approved 5-0.

4. 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

The dates were accepted as presented.

5. 400 HEBRON AVENUE – continued review of proposed landscape changes - Town Center & Residence A Zones – Allan Schwartz, Evan Schwartz & Beth Kratzert, Schwartz Realty, applicants

Beth Kratzert presented the revised plan. The plan was accepted with the following changes:

- Two white hybrid dogwood trees will be planted beside the north side of the building along Hebron Avenue.
- Eight to ten Sky Pencil hollies will be planted to buffer the area near the mechanical equipment at the northeast corner of the building.
- The red maple slated for the northeast corner of the building will be eliminated due to conflicts with an underground water storage tank and manhole covers.

Allan Schwartz assured members that planting in front of the wall on the front corner will be abundant to make up for the loss of the tree.

As noted on the revised plan, the planter and one *stewartia* tree near the main entrance from the parking lot has been eliminated to accommodate ADA access along the sidewalk. In the three remaining beds by the entrance, it was noted that the mulch is missing and some plants are heaving or in danger of having their roots suffer winter damage. The applicant will address the need for mulch.

In the rear of the building and following the length of the parking lot, the drainage ditches are full of water. Allan Schwartz explained that these are functioning as designed. Bob Shipman pointed out that he had suggested that the shrubs along these ditches be grouped rather than planted in straight lines. The meeting minutes of March 14, 2018 were cited with reference to follow-up on March 27, 2018 where the minutes note that revised drawings were presented. The plan being presented tonight show the plants in a straight line and that is indeed how they have been planted. Mr. Schwartz asserted that he has an approved mylar showing them as planted. The Committee would like to find out when the plans of March 27, 2018 were changed back to a straight line and why this was done.

On the northwest corner of the building along Hebron Avenue, the plan shows a maple tree. Several members expressed concern that the tree appears to be planted on an abutting property, also owned by the applicant, and not on the plan and in closer relation to the building than desired. Initially, Ms. Kratzert and the Schwartz' asserted that the tree was on the site, but agreed to verify that location due to the concerns. Linda DeGroff exhibited pictures on her cell phone which did raise questions as to the location and proper siting of the tree.

Bob Shipman noted that he visited the site and smelled natural gas, and he has had that experience on previous visits. This could result in safety concerns or damage to plants if there is a gas leak. The applicant team said they would investigate.

A motion was made by Della Winans to accept the revised plan with the above changes and it was seconded by Kate Morgan. The motion passed 5-0.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- A question was asked about the length of members' terms on the Committee. Linda DeGroff said that she believed her term had expired and she was awaiting re-appointment.
- Members thought the December presentation on non-native invasive plants was a success; they all enjoyed it. They would still like to have more interaction with the Conservation Commission members and a chance to converse and discuss philosophies and directions for the future. Bob Shipman will reach out to Judy Harper about the potential for another joint meeting.
- Kate Morgan asked about the status of the trees that were supposed to be planted as part of the approval for the gas station on Hebron Avenue just east of the section that passes over Route 2. No trees appear to have been planted.
- Candice Mark noted that a tree was planted at the Main Street McDonald's where the parking lot exits onto Main Street; this tree obstructs a sign.
- Several members noted that citizens have approached them as members of the Committee and expressed concern about some buildings approved in the center of town lacking aesthetics, specifically in relation to their proximity to the road, amount of green space and buffering. Members feel the buildings generally lack curb appeal. Discussion continued about the Committee's ability to address these types of concerns and whether this was in the scope of the Committee's charge. There was also discussion about how to handle this kind of feedback, and if not in the Committee's purview, how to direct these concerns to the appropriate parties. The Office of Community Development will be consulted for guidance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Candice Mark