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Dear Bob,

I have been on the Beautification Committee for a little over a year. I am so pleased and honored to serve our town and its' residents in this capacity. I am also a long-term resident of Glastonbury and have reached an age when I can talk a lot about what the town used to look like when I was much younger.

As you know Jarrod and I work together at General Landscaping. Often, we talk about the projects that come before the committee as well as the challenges to our committee as Glastonbury faces increasing pressures from developers and the interests of the community at large. I am writing on behalf of Jarrod and I to start a dialog regarding logistical and aspirational changes for the Beautification Committee. I will present our thoughts in bullet form to facilitate an open discussion with all committee members.

1. Currently, packets are to be sent to members the Friday before a meeting. It is assumed they will be received no later than the Monday before our meeting. Jarrod and I would like to ask that the packets be delivered on, or be ready for pick-up, the Friday before our meeting so there is adequate time for members to review the material and make site visits if needed.
2. Large designs are not easily viewed on our computers, tablets or laptops. We request that all packet materials be printed. Furthermore, all information related to a project should reflect the most current version of the proposed landscape/development plan.
3. When appropriate, limit the number of plans to be reviewed at a single meeting. Discussions and comments regarding large designs can easily overwhelm a meeting not allowing enough time to review other plans at the same meeting.
4. Allow the committee to defer approval when there are significant changes, the committee has not reached consensus or there is not adequate time to fully discuss the details of a project. Oftentimes, it feels as if we are being asked to simply rubber-stamp a project without having enough time to fully consider the implications of the project presented.
5. We would like the opportunity to revisit projects just before they are implemented so we can ensure the installation is being done in accordance with the plan approved by the committee.
6. Development in our town is proceeding at a rapid pace. There is a lot of pressure on open land and the redevelopment of existing commercial properties. It is time to look at the big picture rather than the limited view of responding to one project at a time allows.
  - 6a: Could the Beautification Committee consider and enumerate a guide to the design and purpose of landscaping and land use in our town. This document could be used by developers and designers during the early phases of their project.
  - 6b: Can we initiate a coordinated effort with Town Planners, the Zoning and Conservation Commissions to set some goals for development in our town? An open dialog with these commissions and the community will ensure we preserve its beauty, history, small town feel and do it in an environmentally responsible and responsive manner?

Many years ago, Inez Hemlock and Marcia Early worked with the Glastonbury's' departments and commissions to develop a town wide commercial plan of development. The result designated enterprise development areas outside of our Towns center. It seems like a good time to conduct another such project to preserve the historic features of our town and determine just how the center of our town looks going forward.

Our committee is uniquely poised to add significant value to the overall direction of property development and land use in Glastonbury. We have the expertise to assist in the development of guidelines that would assure the enhancement and quality of our environment, improve the integration of significant buildings within their surroundings and meet the ever increasing 'quality of life' needs for our residents.

Jarrold and I ask you to consider holding one or more meetings to discuss these ideas and others, so we can provide the best possible outcomes for our fine town.

Respectfully,

Candice Mark & Jarrod Sansoucy