

**Town of Glastonbury
Community Beautification Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

1. Roll Call

Present: Robert Shipman, Chairman
Candice Mark, Vice Chair
Jarrod Sansoucy, Secretary
Debra DeVries-Dalton
Jody Kretzmer
Kate Morgan

New member Napali Bridgelall joined in on the meeting.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2021

Candice MOVED to accept the minutes; Bob seconded; all in favor.

3. 107 EASTERN BOULEVARD – a second review of the redevelopment to include parking lot expansion, a stormwater management system, site lighting and landscaping – Engineer Matthew Bruton and Architect Barbra Joslin, BL Companies – WE Acquisitions LLC, applicant

Wayne Violette and Lauren Wholey presented the revised plan. Bob is happy with the increase in plant quantities.

The Committee asked for a change from white pines to any of the following - Vanderwolf, white spruce or Swiss stone pine.

Jarrold is concerned the plan is over-planted this time. With juniper, less is more, and he directed they be removed from the end of the parking lot spaces. Jarrod is also worried about the amount of plants and the possible lack of maintenance.

Jody is concerned as well that the plan is over-crowded, and that many of the larger, older white pines are not in good health or condition. He thinks they should be looked at and maybe replaced.

Candice's concerns included that there are too many islands; there should be fewer and plantings in them should be thinned out; Jarrod agrees.

Candice questioned the elm trees; she is not a fan of them and suggested changing them out with locust.

There was discussion on the inkberry still on the plan. It was suggested changing the variety to ensure they won't be tall and leggy as they mature. Kate and Debra like the inkberry, but agreed different varieties should be considered.

Jarrold reiterated his concern about maintenance and the fact the plan is heavily planted and this is a commercial building. Greg thought we might be able to add a maintenance plan to the plan to keep the owner responsible to keep it up. Jarrod and others still have concern if it will be maintained well.

Jody made a motion to accept the plan as presented with minor changes. The Committee requested the changes be made with Bob and a few other members to review; this will allow the applicant not to have to return to a third meeting, Jarrod seconded; all in favor.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The email distributed to the Committee by Greg Foran regarding concerns and proposed changes to the New London Turnpike island at the Stop & Shop, Monaco and CVS intersection was discussed. At question were:

1. Should the 5 trees broken off by a traffic accident be replaced.
2. Should an overly large Callery Pear in the island across from Monaco be removed.
3. Should the Microbiota in the small island in front of Monaco be removed and replaced.
4. Should pruning be done to improve the look and overall safety of the remaining Callery Pear trees.

Frank Kaputa, Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Chair, cited the invasive nature of the Callery Pears and recommended not replacing any specimens with the same species; members agreed. Jody added the fact that these trees are reaching the 10-15 year mark and as such become prone to breakage due to the tight upright form of the Pear. Candice mentioned that upon inspection, she noticed there were a number of intermediate trees that appeared not to be thriving and might also be considered for removal.

Regarding replacing the five missing trees, three ideas were floated:

1. Install alternative trees species that would thrive in the dry and narrow space allotted for planting.
2. Install several alternative shrub species (e.g., Viburnum, Amelanchier) that would cope with the stressful conditions.
3. Do nothing and wait until a wholesale renovation of the islands takes place sometime down the road.

Regarding the giant Callery Pear in front of Monaco everyone agreed it should be removed.

Regarding the island of Microbiota, all members agreed the declining shrubs should be removed and replaced with a mix of low growing shrubs which would not impair driver's visibility or to simply mulch it.

Greg noted doing anything possible to reduce the labor involved to maintain these islands is a good idea as they are extremely dangerous to work on. Greg noted at the end of the discussion that he had sufficient ideas to consider and will move forward with changes.

The Dairy Queen design was brought up once more following concerns Candice had regarding shrubs which were to remain in place on the south side of the building. She mentioned there were several unsightly "holes" in that planting. Bob returned to the site and suggested one or two Exbury Azaleas would complete that area and thrive. The committee agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarrod Sansoucy