

Litchfield Beautification Commission
March 25, 2021
Litchfield Community Center

In attendance: Jane Bailey, Anna Heys, Sue Kennedy, Julith Sink and Cindy Swope
Absent: Ruth Erickson, Margy Miner
Minutes from the July 31, 2020 meeting were read and approved.
(Meetings for September, November, and January were canceled due to COVID-19)

Balance of funds in Jeanne FitzGerald's memorial \$306.48
Balance of fund in Commission's Budget \$1378

Ann Heys turned over the chairmanship position to Jane Bailey. The Commission members thanked Anna for her many years of service in this position.

Betty Eisenhaure has resigned. Julith Sink, who is currently an alternate, will fill her position. Julith will call Ann Combs to see what needs to be done for this.

Upcoming meetings are:
May 28, July 30, Sept.18, and November 19 at 1 pm at the Community Center.

Jane and Anna discussed their meeting with Denise Raap and Liz Callahan. There was a conversation about traffic islands and the Beautification Commission's frustration with maintaining them. If the Commission is to hire someone to maintain them, three bids are needed and the contractors must have \$1m liability insurance. Commission members are not allowed to work on the islands. The islands are state property so there is ambiguity about what can be done. Liz Callahan thought the town wasn't allowed to authorize work on state property. She was going to check on this, but at the time of this meeting, she had not gotten back to Anna or Jane. The original permit for the islands came through a DOT office in Thomaston. Anna called there but no one was able to resolve the questions of maintenance.

Denise also suggested the Commission look at projects in Bantam, Milton and Northfield, but nothing specifically was proposed.

Paul Adams mulched the islands last year and will continue this year. Anna will instruct him on cutting back plants on the islands as a stopgap until someone can be found to do regular maintenance.

Anna was given a large amount of Beautification Commission documents that dated back to the original proposal. Many of the original functions are no longer relevant. Jane suggested a mission statement be drafted and Julith volunteered to do it.

The group will meet at Litchfield Hills Nursery at 9 am on March 30 to select plants for the front of Town Hall. At Town Hall, the group will look at the boxwoods planted last fall, check on the plantings done by the historic marker last spring, and look at the sign by the street to see what can be done to improve it, i.e. painting, planters, new plants, etc.

Jane will call Denise about a leaking faucet at Town Hall.

Cindy will continue to put flags on the islands for appropriate holidays.

Next meeting is May 28.