

Litchfield Beautification Commission
July 30, 2021, 1 pm
Litchfield Community Center

In attendance: Jane Bailey, Anna Heys, Sue Kennedy, Margy Miner, Danielle Muecke
Julith Sink and Cindy Swope Guest: Carlyle Kloter

Minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting were read and approved.

Balance of funds in Jeanne FitzGerald's memorial \$306.48
Balance of funds in Commission's Budget Unable to obtain prior to meeting

Budget for 2021-2022 is assumed to be \$2,000. Jane will verify the official amount.

Funds from 2020-2021 were spent down as follows: \$150.46 plants and potting soil at Litchfield Hills Nursery; \$200 lumber for Town Hall sign; \$430 new letters for sign; and \$150 credit at Litchfield Hill Nursery. Additionally, \$41.97 was spent from this year's budget for sign hardware. Stacy will create \$100 purchase order for small expenditures.

Ruth Erickson has resigned. Danelle Muecke has been sworn in. Julith Sink resigned her alternate position and has been sworn in as a full member. Carlyle Kloter is interested in being an alternate and will go to Town Hall to be sworn in.

Jane started the meeting with a moment of beauty. Each member mentioned one place was thought to be beautiful and examples included the Farmington River bridge, Greenwich downtown, Topsmead, Tapping Reeve meadow, etc.

Danielle will start an Instagram account for Beautification Commission to feature beautiful areas in Litchfield.

The restoration of information sign in front of Town Hall is near completion. Gary Sink rebuilt the rotting areas and repainted. The letter brackets had been installed upside down and Gary has rehung. Also, Gary used new stainless steel hardware for the brackets, so there would be no rusting as in the past. The letters were not the correct size and new ones have been ordered. The Beautification Commission and Town Hall staff are very appreciative of all of Gary's efforts and the time he has volunteered. Cindy will write him a thank you note.

Town Hall: The boxwoods at Town Hall look good; none need to be replaced as previously thought. The plantings under the informational sign were pruned and thought to look fine. The common day lilies around the flagpole need to be removed; Cindy volunteered to do the removal in September. The whole area around that flagpole needs to be replanted either in the fall or the spring. Sue will check to see if the leaky faucet has been repaired. The railings in front and back of the Town Hall are rusty.

Jane will write a letter to Raz Alexe at Public Works about the Commission's concerns for both the esthetics and safety of the railings.

Since the prior meeting, Jane meet with Father Tucker who has agreed to pay for the hanging baskets. Litchfield Hills Nursery is to bill him directly. Litchfield Hills Nursery also agreed to forego payment for the 2020 baskets.

Ideas for future projects: Jane suggested window boxes for flowers on both sides of the rear entrance. Julith suggested a rustic pyramid planter with fast growing vines. for the pots in the front of Town Hall to make the plantings more visible. Carlyle suggested using cornstalks, etc. for fall decoration. Additionally he will contact Colorblends in Bridgeport for possible planting donations.

Traffic islands: Paul Adams has not supplied the insurance certificate needed by the state for him to maintain the islands. Since all attempts to hire someone for island maintenance have been dead ends, members of the Commission will do the work needed until there is a solution. Despite grumblings from the Borough, flags will be continued to be placed on the islands for holidays.

The State has done a study of traffic patterns in Litchfield with the possibility of removing two of the traffic islands. The report is 28 pages long. It was agreed that members would read the report and discuss at a special meeting on August 27, 2021, 1 pm, at Litchfield Community Center.