

**Beautification Commission Meeting
Thursday October 3, 2013**

PRESENT: Marylee Hickey; Dolores Kehoe; Mary Mourey; Betty Russell; Pat Sirois.

ABSENT: Pat Byrnes (excused); Elaine Dube (excused); Tony Russo (excused).

Also Present: Tim Bockus, Director/Public Works; Ted Fravel, Director/Parks and Recreation ;
Greg Donato, Inspections and Permits.

GUEST: Joanne Dorn, Town of East Hartford Social Services

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sirois called the meeting of the Beautification Commission to order at 5:30 p.m.

GUEST: Joanne Dorn, Town of East Hartford Social Services

Joanne Dorn requested that monies collected for buttons during Holiday Fest be donated to the Food Bank rather than the Fuel Bank. She stated that there are state and federal funds for fuel. Social Services have seen a 26% increase for food bank usage as well as a 29% increase for school supplies.

The town of East Hartford has five Food Banks: First Church, St. Rose Church, St. Mary's Church, St. Isaac Church and a combination of South Congregational with St. Christopher Church.

She also stated that Social Services will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children birth to 10 years old.

Chair Sirois thanked Joanne Dorn for attending the meeting and stated she will place in the Holiday Fest brochure that money collected from the sale of buttons will go to the East Hartford Food Bank. She will also place information about the toy drive sponsored by Social Services.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Mary Mourey made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2013 meeting.
Seconded by Marylee Hickey. Approved.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK. None at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Park and Rec

Ted Fravel reported that this weekend is the Hockanum River clean-up. He also stated that Park and Rec will be placing a sign in the Town Green Kiosk announcing the dates for Holiday Fest.

Chair Sirois will meet with Ted Fravel and the Director of Raymond Library to coordinate rooms in the Cultural Center for library events during Holiday Fest due to the construction at the library.

Discussion was held on the Tree of Lights, which will not be lit at the Raymond Library due to construction. Chair Sirois recommended having a tree placed on the Town Hall front lawn. She and Tim Bockus will speak with Mayor Leclerc about the situation. Tim Bockus also recommended having it on the lawn of the Board of Education Administration building.

- Tree Warden/Public Works

Tim Bockus reported on the following tree issues:

47 Garvan St. Maple Cluster (Private) Appears a few branches have fallen recently. Trees appear healthy. All are private. (No further action)

119 Central Ave. Dead Tree (Private) Tree is 25' +/- on private property. (Removal letter)

TOWN CLERK
EAST HARTFORD

2013 OCT - 7 A 11: 05

Patricia J. Rank

69	Burnbrook Rd.	Misc. Pines/Oaks	(Private)	Owner concerned about health of trees & past storm damage. (No further action)
3-45	Hillside St.	Dead/fallen trees	(Private)	Dead/fallen trees(No further action)
40	Maplewood Ave.	4" Maple	(Town)	Tree is dead. (Removal scheduled).
92	Burnside Ave.	15" Maple	(Private)	Tree is dead/leaning. (Letter sent and Removal pending). Flagged tree so owner can identify
487	Burnside Ave.	18" Oak	(Private)	Tree has been removed.
58	Higbie Dr. (Removal scheduled)	15" Dead Tree	(Town)	Broken off and hung up on branches over shed.
65	Broad St.	30" Maple	(Town)	Tree is healthy. Leans toward house. Roots appear to be heaving sidewalk (Need to monitor further homeowner states sidewalk has been lifting more and more.)

Tim Bockus reported that he received notice from the Arbor Day Foundation about the Tree City Application which is due on December 31, 2013.

Tim further reported that the tree inventory and management plan is being done on Main Street with funding from the America the Beautiful Grant.

Tim reported on the Emerald Ash Borer that is being found in Connecticut and the damage it will do to Ash trees. Correspondence was received from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and is attached to the minutes.

- Concerns of the Commission (Building/Inspections)

Greg Donato reported that Building and Inspections, Planning and Zoning and the Health Department toured the various shopping centers, strip malls in town. If violations were found letters were sent to the owners.

Discussion was held on the Olde Roberts Street property that has firewood stocked in the yard. Greg Donato stated that the owners heat their home with firewood and there is no backyard to stock the wood.

General information was given on the following:

- Elks Building, Roberts Street will be housing CT Transit
- Big Y plaza – Cardio Express will be going in there
- State of CT is working on the sound barrier project on Silver Lane

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mary Mourey reported the general budget balance is \$7875.00
Remembrance Fund balance is \$520.96.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Arbor Day Foundation

CHAIR'S REPORT

Prior to giving her report, Chair Sirois stated for the record how nice the new benches and bike racks look on Main Street, as well as the flower barrels.

On Wednesday, October 2, Chair Sirois met with Dan Larson of Goodwin College to view Goodwin properties throughout town. He took her to the new buildings around campus: Pre-school Magnet school; Pathways to Technology (due to open in April 2014); and the new Connecticut River Academy (Goodwin College Magnet High School). She was also shown the homes purchased by the College that have been renovated for employees of the College. Taxes are paid on all properties owned by Goodwin College that do not house educational studies.

Dan Larson informed her that a River Walk is being built in conjunction with Wethersfield and Glastonbury for public use. Goodwin College will also be building a marina on the river.

Goodwin College will be offering tuition-free manufacturing programs due to the unfilled manufacturing jobs in the state.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Memorial Trees

Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse is in need of two trees.

B. Holiday Fest

Chair Sirois went to Custom Printing to find examples for a theme for Holiday Fest. Commissioners were in agreement to use the Elf Swinging on Christmas lights for the poster, buttons and brochure. Chair Sirois will have the posters and buttons printed at Custom Printing.

Chair Sirois did a mass email to all past participants of Holiday Fest, she is beginning to receive responses.

C. Fall Plantings

Mary Mourey reported that mums have been planted.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Theresa Godreau

\$ 75.00

Dolores Kehoe made a motion to pay the bills as submitted. Seconded by Betty Russell. Approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, **Mary Mourey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Seconded by Dolores Kehoe. Approved.**

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Thursday, November 7, 2013 in Building Department Conference Room at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Godreau, Clerk