

*Fairhaven Beautification Committee
Fairhaven, MA*

Aug 14, 2014

In Attendance: Members Wayne Oliveira, Vicki Paquette, Gary Lavalette, Beverly Rasmussen, Karen Vilandry.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm in the Fire Station meeting room.

Minutes read by Mr. Oliveira. Motion made by Ms.Paquette to accept, second by Mr. Lavalette.

COOKE PARK

Ms. Vilandry addressed the Cooke Park issue, she has put time and research into re-arranging the plantings in the park to beautify it. She has spoken to Jerry Rooney President of the Manjiro House, Deb Charpentier, Historian at the Millicent Library, and Linda Meredith, Secretary to the Fairhaven Improvement Association. All are in favor of the rearranging the plantings.

Ms. Vilandry's research revealed that the park was formerly called "Burial Hill" many years ago. Members agreed that more research is needed to find out the history of Cooke Park and if in fact there is; or ever was Mayflower decedents buried there. All would like to see more ways to spruce the park so visitors can be able to sit and reflect there.

An email will be sent to the Selectboard stating that Ms. Vilandry will be doing some gardening at Cooke Park to thin out the bulbs and perennials.

Mr. Lavalette noted that the hotel tax monies are used for the Office of Tourism and the money goes to the general fund. Because landmarks are part of tourism then maybe a portion of the funds could be used for these types of projects. Members agreed that they would all like to try to present an article at Town Meeting for these projects.

RTE

Rte 6 will be paved from Adams Street to the Mattapoisett line. Mr. Oliveira spoke to a representative at MADOT. The end of August is the target date for this work to be started.

Ms.Vilandry showed pictures of planters on rte 18 in New Bedford. She has done some research and found pricing for similar planters for Fairhaven to place along rte 6. They are the required height for DOT

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rules and are made of concrete or granite. All members agreed that we would like to pursue this project over the winter to find ways to get funding.

SIGNS

Mr. Lavalette presented pictures showing different signs that need to be fixed or replaced. Places discussed were the “welcome to Fairhaven” sign in Acushnet, 195/240 near Alden Buick, “welcome to Fairhaven” at the Mattapoissett line, and Howland Road entering Fairhaven. Ideas were discussed to have Welcome signs in other high traffic areas other than just at town lines.

Mr. Lavalette also showed pictures of the benches along the bike path that are all damaged due to the grass being cut and getting hit by the lawnmower when the DPW is cutting the grass.

Mr. Lavalette is still tackling the graffiti issue, but has seen a slight drop in recent months.

Howe Allen has contacted Mr. Oliveira about having a sign put up at rte 6 & Washington Street that directs people to the center of town. Discussion ensued as to other places the sign could be placed that would be more visible to direct visitors to the center of Fairhaven. Mr. Lavalette will take pictures to present to Howe Allen as to other options for signage. All members agreed that this is an idea that they would like to help Mr. Allen pursue.

Ms. Vilandry mentioned that it would be nice to see rules and regulations/planning as to keeping with the feel of the town, for buildings and signs, similar to small towns on Cape Cod.

RTE 6/LIGHTING

NFIA will be putting lights around Benoit Square that are antique looking. Mr. Oliveira brought up for discussion to keep in mind as a project that the committee may want to look into for rte 6 near the High School from Main Street to Adams Street.

TREES

Mr. Lavalette would like to send a letter to the Tree Warden stating that when trees are taken down a new tree should be planted in its place to replace it, so that we don't lose our small town feel.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm. Motion made by Mr. Lavalette and second by Ms. Vilandry.

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Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 t 7:00 pm in the Fairhaven Fire Station meeting room

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Paquette