

## **Meeting Minutes- Halifax Beautification Committee**

**April 29, 2019**

**Present:** Candace Kniffen, Greg Cowan, Amy Troup, Nancy Botelho, Jeanne Kling, Kimberly King

*Meeting called to order at 11:35 a.m.*

### **Town Meeting Presentation of Article 51- Reduction of Single-Use Plastic Bags:**

Discussion of the format for presenting the article at the 5/13 Town Meeting: Candy will present the article and then a member of the Beautification Committee will second the article. After that Candy will ask the BOS, BOH and Fin Com to make a recommendation. Next Candy will address these 3 primary areas:

1. Building Awareness- we want to heighten awareness of the irreversible harm of plastic bags and send a message to future generations that we care. State that before we started researching this topic we didn't realize how many other towns had plastic bags ordinances/bylaws/bans.
2. Paper vs Plastic Bags- The recycling rate of plastic bags is very low; statistics show that less than 14% of these bags are recycled. Paper is not the preferred alternative, reusable bags are preferred.
3. Rights vs Responsibilities- we discussed Ken Stone's position paper (Plymouth) and that there is always a struggle between what our freedoms & rights are as individuals vs decisions for the broader good of future generations. He noted that government regulations were responsible for the cleaning up of Boston Harbor, for banning of chemicals to protect the ozone layer.

\*Finally, after Candy presents the article, we can respond to comments and questions from the voters. Jeanne shared data with the feedback from a January Facebook post on the plastic bag initiative. We shared our own perspectives on how to counter any negative concerns with research based findings.

\*We will send an email out to our contact list with the brochure and put out an informational post on Facebook at a date closer to the meeting.

**Bills:** We discussed that as previously approved a 50% payment will be made to C-Mac services maintenance work of the Peg Fitzgerald Garden.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 22, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Adopt-A-Planter/Island:** Amy presented her draft "The Halifax Beautification Committee offers Planters and Islands". Amy will consolidate the draft into a single page flyer after receiving suggestions for edits from the rest of the committee. One suggestion was to have two columns: one listing the expectations of Adopt-a-Planter and the other listing the expectations for Adopt-an-Island.

There was also discussion about the current need a sign for the Fitzgerald Garden for C-Mac Services. Amy showed a picture of a sign from Bridgewater and the committee agreed that it

looked appropriate. Our simple sign will state something like this: "This garden is maintained by C-Mac Services. Thank you" If C-Mac sponsors the island at 58/106 they will need 2 signs.

**Spring Clean Up Day Summary:** The Clean Up Day was well attended and we talked briefly about it. Greg will create a thank you letter and Jeanne will provide him with the list of groups, businesses, and town employees that participated in Clean Up so they can be thanked in the letter.

We also shared plans for promoting the rain barrels by emails to our contact list with online ordering info and also Facebook posts of Nancy's demo video along with online ordering information.

As the meeting time was getting late, Jeanne suggested saving further discussion on "what if anything we may do differently" to the next meeting.

Kimberly King presented the committee members with a seed packet from the 4-H Sunflower Project and a sunflower plant to Jeanne. We thanked Ms. King on involving the Daisy Troop in Clean Up Day.

**Beautification Committee Members:** Terms for all current members expire on 6/30. Candy suggested that we share our intentions whether or not we plan to continue in our positions with the HBC at our next meeting.

**Agenda for the next meeting:**

\*Review the expectations list for "Adopt-A-Planter/Adopt an Island" (Amy), signs (Candy)

\*Town Meeting Review of Plastic Bag Article & next steps

\*Clean Up Day Follow Up/Suggestions for next Clean Up Day

**Next meeting: May 20 at 1:00**

*Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Kling