

Meeting Minutes- Halifax Beautification Committee

Jan. 7, 2019

Present: Candace Kniffen, Greg Cowan, Amy Troup, Nancy Botelho, Joseph Botelho, Jeanne Kling

Meeting began at 1:02 p.m.

Approved the minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting

HBC Opening

Nancy Botelho would like to join the Halifax Beautification Committee to fill the vacant seat left by Tom Fitzgerald when he moved out of town. Candy gave Nancy a Talent Bank form so that she can put in an official request through the BOS.

Keep Massachusetts Beautiful

After brief discussion, the HBC voted unanimously to join Keep Massachusetts Beautiful for the reduced fee of \$125/year. Candy said that she will fill out a bill schedule and check the KMB website to find out how payment should be made. Greg also offered to check with Neil Rhein.

Town Meeting Article- Plastic Bag Ban

Candy drafted an article for the Town Meeting Warrant for a Halifax plastic bag ban after referring to wording from the Pembroke and Plymouth by-laws, along with information on the Massachusetts Green Network Site and Keep MA. Beautiful. The HBC reviewed and approved the wording. The proposed article is due to Charlie Seelig today so that it can be posted in the 2019 Town Meeting Warrant.

To inform the public, Candy will develop a blurb/summary to provide information about the Plastic Ban Bag article. The HBC will regularly post short statements (1-2 sentences) with related facts to build environmental awareness.

Peg Fitzgerald Garden

Four local landscaping companies were approached about a two-year maintenance/care plan for the PF Garden: C-MAC, Grapevine, Nessleralla, and Simply Cut. Candy reported that she sent the estimate request to Grapevine and Simply Cut. She has not heard from Grapevine. David Nettles of Simply Cut sent a written estimate with a yearly cost estimate of \$457.50. Amy presented estimates from Nessleralla (\$295/yr) and C-MAC (\$300/yr). The Committee decided to make a decision at the next meeting after the HBC members have a chance to review the estimates as well as research websites/reviews of work done by each company.

There was also discussion on what type of sign to use for the garden and islands. The Board of Selectman would need to approve the signs that will be used. Candy offered to visit sign shops to gather information.

Adopt-An-Island

There was some discussion about which areas/islands to target for Adopt-an-Island projects. Amy said that she has looked into this in the past and will bring a list of potential islands to the next meeting. In December we suggested these three visible islands: Rt. 58/106, Indian Path, South St/Carver.

Nancy & Joseph Botelho shared their knowledge of using rain barrels as a way to address the challenge of getting water to the islands around town. Joe said that one inch of rain is equal to 65 gallons of water in his rain barrel. He also said that there is a product called "Soil Moist" that reduces the amount of water plants need. We discussed about the possibility of purchasing a sample rain barrel and then allowing residents to purchase rain barrels through the Beautification Committee for a small profit. Nancy offered to gather some information about rain barrels to share at the next meeting.

Spring Clean Up Day

Earth Day is April 22nd- The date for Spring Clean-Up was set for Saturday April 27th. Candy will ask Pam to include the date on the town calendar.

Agenda for the next meeting

- Approve Minutes of January Meeting
- Decision on Peg Fitzgerald Memorial Garden contract
- Update on membership to Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
- Plastic Bag Ban article planning and promotion: posting announcement & related "plastic facts" to HBC Facebook page and Halifax FB pages, Plympton-Halifax Express, Buzz Around. Consider developing a flyer about the Article (announcement/facts). Should we ask Cesar Calauro to design the flyer for us?
- Adopt-an-Island: list of potential islands, rain barrel information, signage
- Planning for Spring Clean Up Day

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Next meeting: February 4th at 1:00

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Kling