

**Meeting Minutes- Halifax Beautification Committee**

**May 20, 2019**

**Present:** Candace Kniffen, Greg Cowan, Amy Troup, Jeanne Kling, Shirley Graf

*Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m.*

**4/29 Minutes:** A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes from April 29, 2019 with these 2 changes: 1) correct the date from april 22 to April 29 and 2) delete the statement under “Agenda for the next meeting”: Reorganization of Beautification Committee. This cannot be done until first meeting after July 1st. Nancy Botelho, Greg Cowan, Amy Troup, and Jeanne Kling intend to remain on the Beautification Committee. Candy Kniffen is not sure, but stated that she does not want to remain on as Chair.

**Bill:** A motion was made and approved unanimously to approve spending \$30 to We Print Today for the cost of printing brochures

**Article 51- Reduction of Single-Use Plastic Bags Discussion of Next Steps:** There was discussion about Town Meeting and the passage of Article 51. We will eventually send out guidelines to businesses. It is likely that the Town Meeting will not be certified until July or August and then we would not fully implement until 6 months after that.

In the meantime Candy recommended that all committee members begin to gather materials and information to help judge which bags are “ok” for distribution by retail establishments according to our bylaw. We can take pictures of various bags/reusable bags that are currently being offered by businesses (i.e. Stop & Shop, Walmart, Cumberland Farms, Subway, Cape Cod Pizza, etc). Todd Koep had mentioned that Stop & Shop’s current 2/\$1 bags are plastic-based and not likely the preferred “made from 30% of post-consumer material. Candy stated that we could gather this information through the summer with a planned rollout of implementation information in the fall. Amy suggested having another informational program at the library at some point.

**Adopt-A-Planter/Island:** Amy presented her draft “The Halifax Beautification Committee offers Planters and Islands” at the 4/29 meeting and asked for edits so that it could be consolidated into a single page flyer. Jeanne used the information from Amy’s draft along with input from all members to develop an updated draft that was shared today. We decided to delete the section of the flyer relating to “Adopt an Island” and create just an “Adopt a Planter” flyer for now. C-Mac has offered to do the island on Rt 58 and 106. We have not developed a contract for an official “Adopt an Island” program but thought it was ok C-Mac to take care of that island for now.

A few edit suggestions were made and Jeanne will update and send out to the committee in a day or two. Currently, these locations will receive planters: Congregational Church (3), Holmes Library (2),

**Peg Fitzgerald Garden:** Candy has noticed that the garden needs to be weeded, has called C-Mac to check on their plans for care of the garden but has not heard back yet. She will contact them again about the care of the island, request that the annuals remain the same as last year (red and purple Super Verbena), and also to let them know that they may care for the Rt 58/106 island. Candy mentioned that John Campbell is looking into a design for a sign for the garden and that he suggested an aluminum sign. Amy hasn't spoken to her friend about making a sign yet but said that she will.

**Other:** Shirley Graf attended the meeting and brought two large bags of nip bottles. In January of this year she started picking up nip bottles along Rt 36 (Oak St, Dartmouth St, McClelland, Harvard St, and Colby St) and has picked up 461 to date. During the Monponsett Watershed Association's Clean Up Day on 5/11 she picked up 101 nip bottles.

We had a discussion about nip bottle litter and concerns about drinking and driving. Shirley shared a handout with information about the following: 1) MA cities/towns that have banned nips (Chelsea, Everett, and Winthrop), 2) data about the # of nip bottles sold in MA- 25 million nips/year; with a projection based on population that Halifax sells 28,435 nips/year, and 3) State Rep Randy Hunt's proposed amendment to the bottle bill to include a deposit for nips.

Shirley also shared ideas about how to address the problem including working towards a state ban, working towards a nip deposit, having a nip collection contest with funds toward anti-littering signs, and having the Recycling Club design signs and/or making a sculpture from collected nips. We also discussed the drinking and driving problem and Greg offered to speak to Chief Chaves about the high amount of nip bottles and discuss the concerns. Due to time constraints, we agreed to table this topic and add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Agenda for the next meeting:**

\*Adopt-A-Planter

\*Sign for Fitzgerald Garden

\*Share materials and information about reusable bags that are currently available

\*Resident Shirley Graf- Nip Bottle concerns

**Next meeting: Monday, June 10 at 1:00**

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

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Kling