

Meeting Minutes- Halifax Beautification Committee

Dec. 3, 2018

Present: Candace Kniffen, Greg Cowan, Amy Troup, Jeanne Kling

Meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

Approved the minutes of the November 5, 2018 meeting

Fitzgerald Garden

Tom Fitzgerald has officially resigned from the Beautification Committee. Candace Kniffen told the Board that Tom made a \$2000 donation from their Fidelity Charity Trust to the Peg Fitzgerald Memorial Garden Fund for maintenance of the garden.

Amy Troup spoke with Nessralla and C-MAC regarding an estimate for annual care of the garden. She didn't have any written estimates to present but shared this information: Mr. Nessralla said that they would take care of the garden for free. Amy also read an e-mail from Barbara Donato of C-MAC: "For \$300.00 for the year I will have the guys go by once either weekly or bi weekly to maintain the debris, weeds and water (using the town hose & water) during the hot months. We will also supply the mulch at no charge. If you supply the plants we will plant them for you at no charge, if you need us to pick them up we will only charge you for the plants not to plant them."

There was discussion on how to proceed, including a suggestion that a contract be written and shared via social media and other methods to determine the "best price". Ultimately, the Board voted and unanimously approved that Jeanne Kling would develop a potential two-year contract for maintenance of the Peg Fitzgerald Memorial Garden. The contract will then be presented to Nessralla Farms, C-MAC, and Grapevine Landscaping to determine whether they would like the contract and also to compare their costs. It was also agreed that the contract would include a statement that the HBC will provide and display a sign to acknowledge appreciation of the company.

Adopt-An-Island

Brief discussion that the Board will wait to discuss the "Adopt-An-Island" ideas at the next meeting. We will likely target these three visible islands: Rt. 58/106, Indian Path, South St/Carver.

FY2019 Budget Request

A motion was unanimously approved to keep the \$500 amount for the annual Beautification Committee budget request. This budget request is due to the Town Accountant by 1/7/2019.

Town Meeting Articles

Candy informed the Board that Town Meeting articles are also due to Charlie Seelig by 1/7/2019. She mentioned three potential HBC articles to propose: 1) increasing the size of the HBC Board to seven members, 2) a ban of the sale of nip bottles, and 3) a plastic bag ban.

After discussion, the Board agreed to focus on filling the vacancy on the Board before trying to increase the size to seven members. The Board members will try to contact people about joining the Board. They also agreed not to pursue the nip ban at this time.

However, a motion was made and unanimously approved to submit an article for the 2019 Town Meeting warrant banning plastic bags in Halifax. Pembroke recently passed a plastic bag ban and we will review the Pembroke town meeting article to assist us in the development of our article prior to submission. Amy Troup mentioned that she knows a Pembroke resident, Jamie Sullivan, who was involved in the plastic bag ban in Pembroke. Amy will invite Jamie to attend the January HBC meeting.

Agenda for the next meeting:

- Consider a vote to join Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
- Develop and submit "Plastic Bag Ban" article (due Jan 7th)
- Decision on Peg Fitzgerald Memorial Garden contract
- Adopt-an-Island

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Next meeting: January 7, 2019 at 1:00

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Kling