Beautification Commission

Minutes for Meeting July 15, 2016, 2:00 pm

In attendance: Jeanne FitzGerald, Betty Eisenhower, Ruth Erickson, Anna Heys, Cindy Swope, Lee Losee (guest).

Absent: Cindy Birkins

**Meadow Street:** Lee told the Commission that the sidewalk paving is not complete and there are problems with work that he is addressing with the contractor. The group agreed that is nothing that can be done for beautification of Meadow Street until these issues are resolved.

**Stop and Shop**: Stop and Shop Corporation has been projecting a completion date

of the new store for December 2016. The group thought this was very optimistic.

The Beautification Commission wants to make sure that the proposed plantings are done before the Planning Commission certifies the work has been completed as proposed. This might be tricky if the store is completed in the winter, because it is unlikely that the plantings will be done at that time.

**Hanging Baskets on West and South Streets:** Currently there are 12 hanging baskets on lampposts in Litchfield. These have been provided by Father Tucker and Litchfield Hills Nursery and are being maintained by members of Father Tucker’s parish. Jeanne felt that there should be more baskets and better hanging brackets. John Aserbi had told Cindy S. that he had been investigating having new brackets made by a blacksmith in Goshen. Lee said that there are existing brackets, but an electrician is needed to install them because the top of the post had to be removed then replaced. He is going to get a quote on what it would cost to do this.

**Traffic Islands:** Jeanne talked to Victoria Sansing from the Litchfield Garden Club about the island they had repaired and landscaped. The cost was $8,000. The remaining 3 islands need similar work: the brick removed, new curbing, filled with soil and landscaped. Because these are on a state road, permission is needed to do work. Lee received a form from Aaron Steves, DOT, and signed it, so the Commission now can fill it out and submit to the state. The work on the renovated island was done by Martin Laviero of Bristol and Anna was going to contact him to get an idea on the cost of doing work on the remaining islands. It was hoped that since they were smaller that the cost would not be as great. Anna and Cindy volunteered to work on a grant from ,Scherr-Thoss Foundation which would have a deadline in October.

Anna is going to contact Doug Parker of Litchfield BZ and John McKenna of Waterbury Republican American to get publicity for the Commission.

Letterhead for the Commission was discussed and selected. Anna will have cards and letter-size paper printed at Kinko’s.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2016 at Anna Heys’ house.