

LITCHFIELD MAIN STREET INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Town Office Building, 74 West Street

December 6, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Jonathan Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attending: Kathryn Zullo, Gerry Perusse, Cleve Fuessenich, Dick Sheldon, Jonathan Wilson and guests Anna Heys, Beatification Commission, Diane Stoner, Jane Hinkel, both of Litchfield Garden Club, Joanne Vandenberg-Ohms, VanEnglen and John Sheepers, David Silver, Professional Gardener, and Mark Silver, Assistant Gardener.

Absent: Denise Raap, Diane Knox, Jonathan Tarrant

II. Public Requests/Comments: None

III. Approval of Minutes: Regular November 1, 2017: Motion: K. Zullo moved to approve the 11/1/17 meeting minutes, and Dick Sheldon seconded. All voted aye except G. Perusse who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

IV. Old Business: None

V. New Business

a. Main Street Beautification Discussion: J. Wilson explained that Leo Paul had approached him to discuss an initiative for West Street, which has since become the main street initiative which combines businesses along the corridor on Route 202 from the Torrington line through Bantam. There are 150 members of LABA, and they have given out 75,000 tourism maps. Inviting the beautification groups in to discuss plantings along the corridor, the Garden Club and Beautification Commission responded. He mentioned projects that are motivating deadlines for Litchfield's 300th anniversary in 2019, such as restoring lampposts on West Street. They are also working on hanging baskets on every other lamppost on West Street. The Beautification Commission has done the island plantings that the Green maintenance person, Paul Adams, will keep watered. Mr. Wilson said the sidewalk connecting West St. with the jail should be redone. The Garden Club will revisit refreshing the islands in the municipal lot. Diane Stoner said the Garden Club has received a \$50,000 grant from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation for tree plantings on East and West Streets. They are also in the early stages of improving the East Green. Jane Hinkel said they have identified 28 locations for the trees, but The DOT will have to review the plan. Kent Greenhouse has suggested planting a variety of larger trees, and they have also consulted with Professional Outdoor Services from Bethlehem. They will meet with the local DPW and hope to get started in April to use the grant. It was suggested the Garden Club approach Brierwood in Bantam about donations. Joanne said that Van Englesen has, since the State's adjacent bridge work, planted river birches, rhododendrons and azaleas and recently 6,000 flower bulbs and 1,000 pink and white narcissi and put in more peony beds, two benches and a Frasier fir. She hoped this would create a park feeling for Bantam. She thought it would be fun to do a larger planting along the road front, and they talked about different programs that have been done elsewhere.

VI. Adjournment: Motion: K. Zullo moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. and J. Wilson seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Jonathan Wilson, Chairman