

Pittsfield Beautification Committee
Minutes
August 1, 2016

The Committee met at Town Hall.
Carole opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Members Present: Tina, Carole, Ted, Nancy, Carol, Gail, Nick, Ryan, and Pat

Members Absent: Jason, Paula, Jane, Diana, Lucien, Justin and Matt

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 2016 meeting were approved with 2 corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Tina reviewed recent donations she received as well as expenditures. We also received a settlement check from the police department for the garden damage to the island across from Rite Aid.

Old Business:

Pat's husband finished putting the spouts on the watering barrels. It should solve the priming problems.

Nick had some ideas about spring bulbs and plants for the Washington House Lot to get some spring color. He also asked Carol to check with Frank on the bulb selection. Carole cautioned that we need to remember that the front of the garden does not have a lot of soil, the rock wall extends about 6 feet into the garden. Nick also said that he did not think the lilies needed to be divided until next year. Carol will get the information on the bulbs and have it for discussion at the mum sale since they will have to be planted this fall.

Carol suggested we look into having a fund raising booth for Old Home Day instead of a float. Carole was concerned that many organizations raise funds that day. Discussion was tabled until the spring.

Tina said she did not think Nicole left any plans for the Washington House Lot. Nick said he would identify all of the plants for us.

New Business

Ted wanted to explore getting a water meter installed at Aranosian. Carole said she had already approached a Pennichuck person about it and they were not encouraging. Carol said that because Nancy and Ted water with jugs, she would help them in the future by watering Aranosian for them like she did in June. Hopefully, like the Washington House Lot, the perennials will be more established next year and they will not require the frequency of watering except in prolonged hot weather.

Carol asked that we keep the roses on the back side of Aranosian from going up the berm. Any sprouts should be pulled back to the bush they came from and cut.

Diamond Signs is interested in sponsoring a garden.

Tina went over what she will order for the mum sale scheduled for Saturday, September 10th from 8-12. She is going to try to get 20 5 gallon pots and has requested more yellow flowers. We should be at the Aranasian Lot at 7:00 am. The plants will be delivered at 7:30. We will sell the 10" pots for \$8 and the 5 gallons pots for \$18. Ted will bring water, table and the tent and Tina will bring the banner. We will also have a bake sale and anyone dividing plants in their garden can bring them to sell. Carol will put an article in the paper.

Nick said he would get pricing for "no-dig edging" to put around the internal areas of Aranasian to keep the mulch from going into the stone. Ted brought up that he thinks we need to look into re-seeding the grass areas outside of the garden. Carol said she has some soil and grass seed to at least fix the area where the walkway came into the grass. How many barrels should be at the Lot and where they will be placed was tabled until the first spring meeting.

Nick discussed the tree he would like to have planted to shade the Washington House garden. He suggested a planting size 2" 8-10 foot metasequoia "dawn redwood" and that we plant it in the spring. Dig safe should be called before any digging.

Ted would like to replace the crushed rocks at Crescent Street with red brick. He will get a price for the brick and do the work himself.

Ted also said he authorized the Balloon Rally banner at the Washington House Lot. It was agreed we would only allow banners for this occasion and Old Home Day.

Frank will give us pruning tips for spring and fall at the October meeting.

The watering schedule was extended through the end of September. Gail and Diana will have the week of Sept 18th and Carole and Tina Sept 25th. Carol will send out the revised schedule.

Next Meeting and Adjournment:

Our next meeting is scheduled September 10th at the mum sale.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.