



## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

### SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 MEETING SUMMARY

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The CEC met on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. The afternoon meeting was rescheduled to the morning due to CEC wishing to attend the funeral of former Town Council member and friend Tony Caputo. Sue Callaway, CEC Chair; Donna Farrow; Bobbe Stephan; Carol Stevenson; Pat Weisgerber; and Don Chrobot, Public Works Supervisor were in attendance. Motions were made by Pat Weisgerber and Donna Farrow to approve the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and the group unanimously approved.

#### **Update and Review of SB landscaping and any recommendations for 2017**

Don Chrobot led the discussion on the status of plants, beds and landscaping in general throughout the town. Public Works has assessed what plants work well and what plants do not and will be making some adjustments in the spring 2017. The group emphasized the need for continued attention to any necessary weeding. The CEC members all noted that they have received many compliments from the public regarding the town-wide landscaping improvements. Some suggestions were made for specific types of plants such as New York Iron Weed (a native plant) which will be researched. The police efforts along the median have helped the grass and Don will be planting additional grass seed this fall to further its growth. Don mentioned the success of the new seasonal worker this year and hopes that he will return next year. Public Works will begin work in the fall to complete the Phase 5 (FINAL) Sign Project for the town. This phase includes 75 poles (i.e. no parking, permit only) along all streets on the west side of Route 1, replacing poles and installing vinyl sleeves.

## **Update on Adopt Program**

The group conducted its final review of the 2016 Adopt Contest. It was agreed to use the same process and logistics next year and continue to seek support from Lords Landscaping. An Email News Update announcing the contest results was distributed by the Town on August 19<sup>th</sup> and an article about the Adopt Contest was featured in the August 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Coastal Point*.

In summary, Sue Callaway noted the one new summer Adoption by the Soulas' that occurred on Layton Drive road end and the two new maintenance adoptions, one on York Road by the Laddbushs' and the other along Route 1 by the Beutels'. It was also noted that due to a move by the Eckrenrode family, new adopters will be needed for their canal end along Peterson Drive. Sue will be working on the annual fall *Adopt Update* that summarizes all adopted canal ends.

## **Follow-up to CEC's 8-25-16 Town Council Workshop Survey Comments Presentation**

Sue Callaway noted that she presented the Committee's recommendations on August 25<sup>th</sup> and the next steps that the Town Council will now decide upon. The Council was asked to review the presentation materials particularly with regard to any street light changes, the process involved and to make a decision about the next steps regarding any future street light installation plan at a future Council meeting.

Addendum: The subject of the street lights will be presented at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting.

## **Update on Historic Photo Project**

The Historic Photo/Sign Project is back on track after a summer hiatus and a graphic designer has prepared draft layouts for two signs which were reviewed by the CEC. Sue and Pat Weisgerber will continue to work on preparing suggested photos and text for the next three signs and will continue to work with the designer who has been key in pulling the materials together in a creative design and attractive layout. The goal is to install the signs in March/April 2017.

## **Review & Selection of Town Christmas Decorations**

Recommendations for new holiday commercial grade decorations for the north and south beds were passed on to Public Works. Costs will be confirmed by Don Chrobot regarding the purchase of these items.

Addendum: The costs for the lights selected by the CEC have been confirmed and fall within the budget amounts. The lights have been ordered.

## **Review of Photography submissions by new artist and discussion regarding new Ocean Drive Art Board submission and possible 2017 Photography/Art Exhibit at Town Hall**

Sue noted that she met with South Bethany photographer Michael McGowan (official photographer for the Operation SEAS the Day) and the group reviewed photos of his work. The group agreed to prepare one of his photos for the Ocean Drive Art Program for the spring 2017. In addition, the group discussed and approved the idea of hosting a month-long Photography Exhibit at Town Hall in 2017. The Exhibit would be open to all interested South Bethany photographers. The proposed dates would feature a public opening showcasing the local photographers on Friday evening May 26<sup>th</sup> with the Exhibit ending on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Details and logistics will be worked on during the coming months. This Exhibit would replace the previously proposed idea of an outdoor art show which has been included in the FY 2017 budget.

### **Operation Seas the Day Program**

Public Works volunteered to place the American flags along Route 1 for the Operation Seas the Day parade on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The flags used were purchased by Garnet and Tom Timbario for July 4<sup>th</sup> display. Thanks to everyone for making South Bethany extra special for this event.

Addendum: The parade was very well attended and Don and his crew did a great job. Thanks also to Garnet and Tom Timbario for removing the flags on the following Sunday.

### **Discussion about Volunteers and the Little Free Libraries**

Pat Weisgerber discussed the need for several more volunteers to help her and Linda Lewis maintain the library through the winter months while Lori Cicero returns to Pittsburgh. Bobbe Stephan volunteered to cover October and November.

Addendum: Sue Callaway prepared an article about the LFLs for the fall edition of the *Zephyr* thanking the volunteers – especially Lori and Martha Fields and requesting additional volunteers for the winter.

### **Discussion about the Fall decorations for the north and south welcome beds**

Pat Weisgerber mentioned that the SBWC would not have funds for the fall decorations but would be willing to recruit SBWC volunteers to arrange the decorations. It was decided to followup with SBPOA to see if they would be interested in funding this effort.

Addendum: An email request was sent to SBPOA President Jack Whitney asking if SBPOA would be interested in the opportunity to partner with the CEC and the SBWC to fund the fall decorations.