

Beautification Committee Meeting
September 17, 2020
Town Council Chambers

Present

Councillor A. Murray, Chair
Mayor L. Boucher
Deputy Mayor M. Farrell
Councillor D. Roberts
A. Arnold
D. Kyle
O. Landry

Absent with Regrets

D. Geldart
L. Jewkes

Also Present

S. Scannell, Director of Community Development
D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk
B. McKee, Recreation Maintenance Supervisor

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Agenda as presented." Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the Beautification Committee Minutes of March 10, 2010 as amended." Motion carried.

- Meet & Greet – B. McKee

The Chair advised that B. McKee was unable to attend the Committee meeting this evening. S. Scannell noted that B. McKee has a strong eye for beautification and horticulture, and suggested a meet and greet, and site visit around Chisholm Park with the intent of meeting him and sharing ideas.

Brief discussion took place. It was generally agreed a special outdoor meeting will be held and further that Council be invited to attend this meeting.

- Self-watering Flower Containers (Re: Climate Change)

Chair, Councillor A. Murray commented on the flower baskets that were hung briefly and then had to come down due to water conservation measures. He noted the benefit of self-watering containers, noting their expense, and stated perhaps purchase of the planters could be done similar to Christmas décor, and slowly build up a

S. Scannell provided details from Cyber-tech which require water once or twice per month, allowing the season to be extended. He noted ground and hanging planters are both available as a potential option.

The Chair spoke to savings that might be had through cost-saving in watering that could potentially go toward more self-watering planters. S. Scannell noted that work done by CACL clients could perhaps be adjusted-shifted to maintain the contract with them.

S. Scannell providing comment on the monitoring of the planters during water conservation. Discussion took place on the unsustainability of the flower baskets in general and the manner in which the program was put in place this year.

Comments were provided by various members of the Committee.

Brief discussion took place on the re-use of an available parking meters as an option for donations for beautifying the streetscape. S. Scannell suggested beginning a dialogue with B. McKee further on this matter.

Committee members put forth ideas and suggestions

- Tree Sub-Committee Update

It was noted that the Tree sub-committee had not met.

Ms. A. Arnold noted she had recently received an email from Communities-in-Bloom noting that they are preparing for a virtual annual general meeting.

S. Scannell provided brief comment on the Town's status with Communities-in-Bloom.

- General Discussion

S. Scannell provided comment on various aspects of Beautification and noted that quite a lot has been going on including the purchase of additional Christmas lights (10 in total now), completed the Hawthorne/Main intersection, tree line now in place in budget with money in budget and can continue working on parameters of the program. S. Scannell noted there is \$2,000 in the budget for trees. It was generally agreed that the \$2,000 would be for the rebate program, banners have been put up, work is ongoing to have signage (English/Gaelic street signs) installed (due to issues with installations at intersections/at lights). Flag poles have been installed at Chisholm Park.

The Committee was advised that \$13,643 was received in a grant that is enabling work to continue at Chisholm Park including benches around gazebo at Chisholm Park, also will be working on the relocation of the information kiosk (closer to Town Hall). Brief comment was provided on the specific location and visibility.

S. Scannell noted the above items cover a significant portion of the Beautification priorities.

S. Scannell further noted that litter pick-up with CACL clients will continue to the end of October. S. Scannell expanded on the details and spoke briefly on a grant to assist with this program and that the CACL clients are formally Town of Antigonish staff. The Committee was appreciative of this program.

S. Scannell expanded on various aspects of the partnership with CACL.

Discussion took place on various matters including bench dedication(s), H. Steeghs (Elm trees), budgeted tree replacement (near Plum Tree and Credit Union).

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.