

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES OCTOBER 6, 2020

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

In attendance: Scott Frush, Lynne Mosteller, Sally Hayes, Dotti Mack, Julie Mantay, Jim Morche' (guest)

- 1) Agenda approved – Dotti motioned, 2nd by Julie
- 2) Meeting minutes from September 1st approved, motion made by Dotti, 2nd by Julie
- 3) 2020 Awards update – Noah Properties was added as an award recipient following an email sent to the commission from the owner asking why he did not receive an award. Lynne visited the property, was amazed at the beautification efforts, apologized to the owner for our oversight, put a sign in the ground at the plaza, dropped off an award certificate and added Noah Properties to the list of award winners on the Township website. The owner was most appreciative.
- 4) Township Hall Planter update – Julie and Lynne shared a design suggested by local resident and architect Keith Kohler. His idea was to add a large scale seating area with an urn (at the base of the main steps in front of the building) to mimic the urn display in downtown at the Town Square. Discussion followed regarding how to pay for suggested design, maybe ask for donations of benches (as in the city). Scott reminded the commissioners that the budget meeting was in 2 days and much turnover was to take place at Township Hall. He promised to share the idea with other trustees and gauge their reaction before announcing it to the administration. Scott does feel that the administration is in favor of improving the beauty of the Township.
--All present also discussed the new addition of the fall mum & pumpkin display on the steps and in the flagpole area at Township Hall. The BC will reach out and offer help for a winter greens display.
- 5) No new budget updates per Scott. Vote on 2021 budget to take place in 2 days.
- 6) New business – 2021 meeting dates were discussed and a few changes were made. The 2021 dates were decided to be: March 2, April 13, May 4, June 1, July 13, August 3, August 31, October 5.
- 7) Unfinished business – Lynne met with Lora Cash and members of the Country Garden Club to discuss suggestions of plant material for the Friendship Garden. Plant suggestions included viburnum, oak leaf hydrangea, helleborus, brunnera, corydalis. Suggestions for improvement of the garden included limbing up trees, moving the FG sign so that is more visible, adding benches, providing access to the garden from the parking lot, adding stepping stones in the mulch. Jim and Dotti shared historical background of the garden; the ADA compliance requirements made adding an entrance from the parking lot too costly and so the sidewalk to the garden was added from the existing sidewalk access adjacent to Sheldon Road, the FG sign is placed in cement and would be difficult to move without damaging it, the soil in the garden is heavy clay and will make adding large plants difficult to do without help from the township grounds crew. More assessment to follow in 2021.
--The Bennett Arboretum Pathway retaining wall clean up on September 26th was a great success. Volunteers cleaned up the lower section of retaining walls in both sections and the Parks and Rec team will complete the clean up of the upper walls in October and November per Mark Gasche and Nate Reilly.
--Moving the Seedling Giveaway to 2021 was discussed since it was not able to take place in 2020 due to COVID. Julie made a motion to proceed with seedling giveaway in 2021 and then in odd numbered years going forward. Dotti seconded the motion and all agreed. Scott will share our plans with the township.
--Scott will check into adding a Christmas tree back to Township Hall this year, he has heard from several residents who would like to see it restored to the interior steps. Festival of Trees at the Senior Center will likely not be held this year, Lynne will confirm.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15, Julie motioned, Dotti 2nd

NEXT MEETING MARCH 2, 2021 AT 1 PM