

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES MAY 11, 2021

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

In attendance: Scott Frush, Lynne Mosteller, Sally Hayes, Sharon Smith, Julie Mantay

Guest attendee: Jim Morche'

- 1) Agenda approved, no changes
- 2) Meeting minutes from April 13, 2021 approved, motion made by Sharon, 2nd by Sally
- 3) 2021 Seedling Giveaway wrap up – All agreed the drive through event was a success. Lynne reported 150 cars came through and all seedlings were gone by 10:30. Most popular seedlings were noted by order in which they were depleted. Traffic flowed well; police monitored a brief backup on Sheldon which did not require any police assistance. Discussion took place regarding keeping seedlings more hydrated next year by lining bins with plastic bags with water added; following up with residents on how well their seedlings performed and maybe requesting photos of seedling growth; potentially decreasing the number of varieties and increasing the number of seedlings depending on budget; advertising early in water bill paperwork and once again advertising the event via City and Township websites, Township Facebook, Kurt Kuban Facebook page and Listserv.
- 4) Donation update – Sharon reported that the Garden Club has agreed to provide (from their generous donation from a private benefactor) \$1500 for the urn in front of Township Hall and \$2000 for the first phase of spray and cleanup by Plantwise of the Bennett Arboretum retaining walls. She also said that more funding may be available depending on the cost of a proposed railing to be placed at the Yerkes house in Mill Race. Sharon will continue to request any allowable further donations to the Township BC projects from the Garden Club. Julie suggested we allow benches to be donated, as was discussed previously, with a memorial plaque. Lynne will coordinate a meeting with several BC members, the architect who proposed the urn and bench scenario, and the Facilities Manager in order to talk out options and solidify a plan for in front of Township Hall.
- 5) Budget update – Lynne suggested that some of the proposed Friendship Garden budget amount may be allocated to the BA Path retaining walls project due to so many donations of plant material to the Friendship Garden.
- 6) New business – Per Julie, the Township BC is invited to join in the Fourth of July parade and march with the City BC and Garden Club; they will distribute flags to the crowd along the parade route. The city barrel planting will take place on May 25th and will start at the DPW yard then progress to downtown. Volunteers must bring garden gloves, a mask and a trowel to help with the planting. The June BCSEM luncheon for this year has been postponed until 2022. The commissioners discussed flowers at flagpole and in front of the Township Hall sign and agreed to use the same layout of flowers and also add some to the Friendship Garden. Sharon made note of need for mulch in between rings in front of flagpole; also need for some maintenance on the brick flower box under the flagpoles. Lynne will reach out to the Communications Specialist at the Township and ask for her suggestions on advertising our annual judging of businesses so that 600 emails do not need to be sent to individual businesses, given the small number of businesses who participate. Scott shared a possible opportunity to partner with the historical commission to provide displays of historical significance at Township Hall. More to follow on this as details become available.
- 7) Unfinished business – Friendship Garden – Lynne requested BC volunteers to help with upkeep and planting in the FG and will create a calendar to cover weeding duties. The Country Garden Club has donated Astilbe, ferns and Woodland Poppy thus far and have helped to plant the donations. Lynne will purchase items to add to the FG some time after Memorial Day. Sharon will help with suggestions of native plants instead of some of the original suggestions made on the FG drawing by the garden designer. Julie has not yet identified an arch for the FG.

NEXT MEETING June 1, 2021 AT 1 PM