

## HALIFAX BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 1:05. Present: Greg Cowan, Jeanne Kling, Candy Kniffen Absent: Amy Troup, Nancy Botelho

**Bills:** C-Mac Services – Moved by Greg, seconded by Candy, payment to C-Mac Services was approved unanimously, in the amount of \$150, for maintenance of the Fitzgerald Garden. This payment completes payment for the first year of the two-year maintenance contract with C-Mac Services.

**Minutes:** The corrected minutes of November 11, 2019 were reviewed and discussed. On a motion by Jeanne, seconded by Greg, the minutes were approved. Jeanne and Greg voted to accept, Candy abstained. Action on the minutes of December 9, 2019 was postponed to the next meeting.

**Garden/Signs:** Candy proposed that the committee request time on the Selectmen's agenda. The purpose would be to discuss long term plans for garden maintenance. Moved by Greg, seconded by Candy, it was voted that Candy will set this up and notify committee members of the date and time. Sign placement on the island at Rt. 58 and 106 was not discussed as Amy is doing this and was not at the meeting.

**Reusable Bag Bylaw update:** Jeanne noted that she had put a reminder of the March 1 implementation date for the bylaw on social media, in the Buzz and Halifax Express, and in an email to those on the committee's email contact list. After some discussion, it was agreed that Jeanne will continue to post publicly periodically until March 1. It was also agreed that, given some of the hateful comments the reminder generated from disgruntled opponents of the bylaw, she would not post/share on the local Facebook pages again. Candy reminded those present that the committee is under no obligation to do anything further, and that the reminder notices and the handouts developed for businesses were simply intended to help ease the transition. It was also agreed that the remaining reusable bags, and additional bags being donated by Easton Savings Bag, will be distributed before March 1. No events were specifically scheduled for this effort – possibly setting up a table at Stop & Shop or Walmart.

**Spring Clean-up:** It was confirmed that the date will be Saturday, April 25 from 10am-noon. Jeanne agreed to confirm that this date is on the town calendar and to update the flyer. A brief discussion took place on whether to offer rain barrels and/or composters. A decision on this matter was postponed to a future meeting for consideration by the full committee.

**Make Massachusetts Beautiful membership renewal:** After a brief discussion on the benefits of membership for the town, the continued urging to "rebrand" the committee as Make Halifax Beautiful, the cost of dues, and the benefits of being part of a larger group pursuing changes that the committee supports, it was unanimously voted, on a motion by Greg, seconded by Jeanne, to rejoin and send a payment in the amount of \$125 for membership dues.

**Annual Report:** Candy drafted the committee's annual report for committee discussion and approval. Some additions were agreed upon and will be written into the report. Candy will send the revised report to Jeanne to submit before the end of January. On a motion by Greg, seconded by Candy, the report, with additions agreed upon, was approved unanimously.

**Recycle Smart:** A brief discussion/explanation of this free advocacy group was given by Jeanne. On a motion by Candy, seconded by Greg, it was voted unanimously to join/partner with this group. Jeanne will complete the paperwork.

**Bylaw change to increase committee size:** Greg raised the idea of increasing the Beautification Committee from five to seven members. This was discussed two years ago and ultimately passed over at town meeting. Concerns were expressed by Jeanne and Candy. Specifically, Candy reminded the committee that increasing the size of the committee will also increase the number required for a quorum. Given the difficulty the town is having in getting volunteers for town committees, she expressed concern that the Beautification Committee would face the same difficulty. Greg agreed to speak with some people and see if there are residents willing to volunteer. Further discussion and a decision on this potential article will need to take place at the next meeting if it is to be acted upon at town meeting in May. The absolute deadline for submitting the bylaw change article is March 1, 2020.

**NEXT MEETING: February 10, 2020**

Meeting adjourned at 2:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Kniffen