

BBC 2025 JAN. 28 MINUTES:

Present: Sharon, Rise, Gwen, Cathy, Beverly, Ruth, Ruthie and Claire. Guests: Lou Blumenfeld, Chair Parks and Rec. Committee (P&R) and Eunice Medwinter

Not Present: DPW Bart Ritson and Mary

Meeting began at 5:32 pm adjourned at 7:14 pm

Minutes November 26, 2024 - Gwen approved the November minutes and Rise seconded.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Ron Pitz, Former Executive Director Knox Parks Foundation was unable to attend so the Raised Bed Vegetable planter discussion will be moved for discussion on Feb 25th.

B) Notable Landscape Awards – Claire and Gwen agreed to coordinate the event this year and will report in February. Event will be held in early September.

- Ideas were tossed around which included but not limited to, moving the celebration to 330 Park Ave Atrium. The movement of the event does not depend on the Raised Bed project.
- Rise and Ruthie will be in charge of refreshments and coordinate with Sharon for set up.
- Judging will be the first week of August when most gardens are at their peak. Eunice made a suggestion that we need a way to showcase different areas of our town including Farmington River Park and other parks. Everyone was asked to come prepared at the February meeting with their ideas of how this might be possible.

C) Distribution of 2024 Notable Landscape Certificates – Gwen and Claire agreed to distribute the certificates to the recipients who did not pick up their awards in 2024.

D) CT Rhododendron Society – The Rhododendron Society currently meets the First Wednesday at 330 Park Ave in Room 131. Their March meeting will be on Zoom.

They are planning to donate rhododendrons for a new garden and will be working on a design. The current proposal is to plant them on the East side of the Town Hall building. BBC will provide the compost and mulch. Josh Viera has agreed to assist with the maintenance. However, additional volunteers are needed.

We also need to finish the Conifer Garden plantings and labeling. Revised brochures are needed to include the new conifers that were planted in 2024.

Brian Wolff is working with Sharon to create a BBC page for information on new conifers. Kevin Wilcox is helping with the identification of the conifers.

E) Recruitment of Volunteers – Discussions around ways to solicit BBC volunteers were discussed. Cathy will look to see if the current Bloomfield social media pages on Facebook would be a good resource to start. She will report in February.

F) Sharon is working with Dave Melesko to submit a new proposal for a tree giveaway for 2025 with the Arbor Day Foundation. Free trees would be offered to any homeowner in town for their front yard. They do not qualify if they received a tree in the past from TFB. First come, First serve. Homeowners sign up in June, they pick up trees in September to plant.

G) BBC has received a \$7000 grant from Cummins Corporation, Bloomfield to have a Cummins employees Community Service Day to help remove invasive vines in LaSalette Park. April 2nd is the scheduled day of work. A light breakfast and lunch will be served to the employees and TFB and BBC volunteers. More details next month.

New Business

A) BBC currently has \$5600 in the budget that will need to last until July 1. Monies will be needed for spring and summer plantings, replacement shrubs, Arboretum brochures, conifer signage, mulch, compost, t-shirts, new planters, tools, etc. The new budget for 2025/2026 begins July 1, 2025. The same budget as 2024 was submitted for 25/26.

B) No Report from DPW. Sharon has requested a meeting with Bart and Landscape foreman to discuss what public gardens BBC will be maintaining this year and how they can work with DPW in a cooperative partnership.

C) Four garden benches and placement of the bird signage in FRP were reviewed with Lou Blumenfeld. They are currently at DPW and will be placed outdoors in the spring. The only item still being discussed is where the plaques will be placed acknowledging Niagara Bottling for their donation and where the four benches will be located.

Lou will be sharing our discussion with him at his P&R meeting next week and will keep us posted. As a compromise, we suggested placing the benches at Filley Park. since Paula Jones pointed out there is available grant money from the Lower Farmington, Wild and Scenic; it was recommended that she as a member of P&R can apply for funding for four benches to use at FRP.

D) Holiday decorations – A decision was made to remove the current display of the Pumpkin scarecrows by the end of January. Cathy suggested a Scarecrow Exhibit and volunteered to get more information from shops in Wethersfield and Litchfield who currently have this as an annual event. The eight hanging baskets at town hall will be planted with spring flowers in mid-March, weather permitting.

E) Ruth brought up a cleanup effort for the trash along the streets in town. Sharon pointed out the Mayor currently has a Litter Campaign and referred Ruth to Brian Wolff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm

Next BBC meeting will be February 25. 5:30pm Town Hall Room 5.