

Parks and Public Spaces Committee  
8/21/2012, 6:30  
Cockadoodle Cafe

Committee members present: David Aiken, Lisa Campbell

Committee members not present: Ola O'Dell, Laura Rubenis (pending committee member, Willow Griffith (pending committee member), Rosalie Benson (pending committee member).

Others present: Lydia Morris (pending committee member), Edie Aiken

- 1.) Introductions, David and Edie Aiken, and Lydia Morris
- 2.) Review and approval of minutes from the July 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting. Minutes approved.
- 3.) Status of seasonal projects.

Lisa discussed the current projects, and their status.

Parking Lot beds – Robert Taylor continues to work on this bed. He is happy to work independently, and provide the necessary resources. Dave mentioned that it would be great to have the bed bloom all summer, if possible. He cited the plantings at the Gifford Hospital stone wall as an attractive and sturdy example, and perhaps some bulbs for an early spring bloom. No action was taken.

River St/RT 107 Traffic Triangle – Robert Taylor maintains this bed. Dave and Edie noted that there is a little sign on the triangle recognizing the contributions of Chippers to this bed. Lisa noted that Liz Krieg (Chippers) had mentioned doing some work with Robert. The committee is grateful for all their hard work.

Bethel Common/Chippers Grant – Heidi Nickolaidis mentioned at a select board meeting in the spring that she had been working on a grant with Chippers to do some work on the common, and that Del had agreed to provide the \$1,000 match in accordance with the terms of the grant. After Heidi's resignation from the committee, Lisa contacted Chippers to determine the status of the grant. Liz Krieg is the contact person at Chippers. She noted that this is a regular grant that Chippers issues every summer to different towns/organizations. Bethel is one of the recipients this year. Liz noted that Chippers provides the know-how and the labor, and the match from the recipients is used to make any necessary purchases. This conversation took place late in July, and Lisa and Liz agreed that any work would be done in the fall, in the interest of the health of any plantings. Liz also noted that they are flexible and willing to work on any space that the committee feels could use the attention. Lisa and Liz agreed to get back in touch after the P&PS August meeting, to talk about committee decisions, and plans for the fall.

The committee did not make any decisions at this meeting regarding the grant/common.

Upper Church Street Traffic Triangle – Lisa has been doing some work on this triangle this summer.

North Rd/RT 107 Traffic Triangle – Laura Rubenis has agreed to do the plantings here in the fall, when the weather has cooled off. The development of this bed will require some ammendments to the soil that will be purchased via the committee's budget.

Richardson's Bed – Ola has worked extensively on this bed this summer. She has expressed concern that the piece of the stone wall by the sidewalk has begun to fall apart, and that this could become a hazard for walkers. She placed the stones back as much as possible.

Mills Hardware Bed. - Historically this has been maintained by Ellen Nobile. Ola has done work with it this summer.

Flower baskets – These baskets have been organized by Heidi Nickolaidis. At a spring Select Board meeting she stated that she must withdraw from this role for future years. The baskets are watered regularly via an organization contracted through the town. They will continue to be

maintained through this summer. There has not been a decision regarding next year's baskets, though another town organization is exploring taking them over for next season.

5.) Donation from Cockadoodle Cafe, GMPS, Eric Richardson, and Tozier's restaurant. These businesses made a donation to the committee in the amount of \$400. The original intent was the purchase of picnic tables. Since the tables were purchased via Mary Floyd's fundraiser, the group agreed to allow the committee to put it toward the reconstruction of the boat launch. The donation was deposited via the Town offices on August 13<sup>th</sup> by Lisa Campbell.

6.) Discussion of the current status of the committee (re: Del Cloud's proposal to disband the committee at the 8/13/2012 Select Board meeting). - Lisa stated that the committee was instructed by the Select Board to continue it's activities until otherwise notified, and then the discussion was tabled. In addition, in addressing Del's concern that some members of the committee were being excluded, Lisa apologized to Dave for unintentionally leaving him out of the loop for the July meeting.

7.) Other business –

Chipper's - The committee did not make any decisions regarding priorities that could be the focus of the Chippers grant. It was discussed that the work they are doing with Robert is a very positive thing. Article for the Herald – Lisa was interviewed by Amy Danley White re: an article for the Herald about the committee's work, and Peavine Park.

8.) Next meeting – The next meeting of the committee will be on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 at the Cockadoodle Cafe.

9.) Meeting was adjourned at 7:15.