

City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes

Date: February 21, 2022 Minutes taken by: Karen Pasquale

Location: Indian Trail Meeting Hall

Quorum determined: Meeting called to order by Lynne Geiman at: 5:00pm

In Attendance: Sharon Lightbourne, Karen Pasquale, Ken and Lynne Geiman, Tom Lombardi, Margaret Fontaine, Robert Thatcher, Larry Ashley, Randy Jones, Joe Fikentscher

Absent: None

Guests: Shirley Synder, Susan Burgess, Lora Sharkey

Approval of January 24, 2022 Minutes: Minutes amended, approved and seconded.

Public Comment: Roundabout Maintenance: Shirley Synder

- Back in 2015, with the permission of the state (Howe and Ferry are state roads) and paid for by the city of Southport, the SBC volunteers assisted in the planting of shrubs at the Roundabout.
- Severe drought and poor irrigation were hard on the roses and loropetalum.
- The breeze grasses have recovered and done well.
- Weeding is a constant struggle for this area.
- Shirley requests the purchase of 30 breeze grasses and 10 yards of hardwood mulch.
- Total cost is approximately \$855.
- Tom Lombardi and Randy Jones will ask the City Manager first if the cost can be covered by the city of Southport. They will let Shirley know what is decided.

1. Committee Reports

a. Native Plant Pollinator Garden (NPPG): Larry Ashley

- The soil in the NPPG was tested over the winter. The results were not good.
- Larry suggests that we add new fertilizer and new soil.
- This Friday, February 25th will be a weeding day in NPPG.
- Tom will install a post for the Library Box in the garden. It will be filled with nature books.
- Kate will pick the spot for the post and Library Box in the NPPG.
- The next meeting for Bee City will be in March and it will be approved. The society has some ideas on spraying for mosquitos.

b. Communication Report: Larry

- Larry says “thank you” for all the pictures.
- Randy asks that pictures to be taken of the installation of the Library Box.

c. Youth Outreach: Sharon Lightbourne

- Sharon states that there are no updates.
- She suggests that we reach out to the high schoolers and Eagle Scouts to come and help on the workdays.
- Randy states that we do not need “permission slips” from the students in order to take their picture on workdays.

d. Planting/Garden/Steward Program: Lynne

- Lynne states that the planting committee will meet within the next few weeks to determine what we will need to purchase for spring planting.
- There are still a few empty steward spots.
- Randy suggests that we take pictures of each spot with a description of what work is needed in order to get more volunteers.
- Joe Fikentscher will go to each location and take pictures.

e. Financial Report: Lynne

- Current balance is \$2676.09.

2. Old Business

a. February Workday Recap, 2/5/22: Lynne

- Seventeen people attended the workday.
- All the grasses throughout the town were cut.
- Old Jail was cleaned out and reorganized for better use.

b. Garbage Surround Tops Update: Tom/Randy

- Tom states that 36 surround tops have been finished.
- A total of 38 will be needed to install on the garbage cans.
- Tom and Ken will draw up designs for new garbage cans that need to replace those that have deteriorated due to rot.
- Randy states that the city pay for the supplies.

c. Yacht Basin Boat Area: Lynne

- High tides and storms have washed away the mulch and killed many of the plants.
- Committee suggests that we place 6 posts with nautical rope around the front of Nick's boat.
- Lynne asked for a motion to do the posts and ropes. Committee seconded and approved the motion.

3. New Business

a. Naturefest: Lynne/Lora Sharkey

- Naturefest will be Saturday, April 30th at the Franklin Square Park, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.
- Lora will borrow tents from the Wooden Boat Show.
- Lora stated that there will be approximately 7 – 8 different groups.
- SBC committee will have a table with information on who we are and what we do in the town.
- A suggestion was made to have a walking tour from Franklin Square Park to the NPPG.

b. Upcoming Workday, March 5, 2022: Lynne

- Weeding and cleanup is the priority on this workday.
- Lora asked if we could trim back the azaleas prior to the Naturefest day.
- Randy will ask David Keely how is the best way to trim azalea bushes.
- Larry will also check with the Master Gardeners for their opinion.

c. All Other Business: Lynne

- SBC will have certain areas for storage at the Old Jail with a padlock.
- 50 bags of mulch will be stored at the Old Jail.
- Karen Pasquale, Rob Thatcher, Ken Geiman and Lynne will have to reapply for their positions on the committee, if so desired, that will terminate on 6/30/2022.
- Applications have to be submitted by the end of April.
- These available positions will be advertised and all people will be interviewed.

4. Adjourned: 6:19pm

Next meeting: March 21, 2022