

City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes

Date: January 24, 2022 Minutes taken by: Sharon Lightbourne/Karen Pasquale

Location: Indian Trail Meeting Hall

Quorum determined: Meeting called to order by Lynne Geiman at: 5:03pm

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

Absent: none

Guests: Kate Singley, Audrey Harron

Approval of November 15, 2021 Minutes: Minutes amended, approved and seconded via email by the SBC Board members.

1. Committee Reports

a. Native Plant Pollinator Garden (NPPG): Kate Singley

- Kate stated that there are questions about the “no spray” list for Bee City and what are the Bee City requirements.
- At this moment, NPPG and the community garden are on the “no spray” city program.
- Kate stated that the NPPG should be treated as a “bee hive”.
- Kate will wait to hear from the city of Southport about signing the resolution, on February 17th, 2022.

b. Communication Report: Margaret Fontaine/Larry Ashley

- Margaret has asked Larry to take over while she is recuperating.
- Margaret says that Larry is doing a fantastic job with photos and PR.

c. Youth Outreach: Sharon Lightbourne

- Sharon stated that there is no report at this time.

d. Planting/Garden/Steward Program: Lynne

- Lynne stated that there are no current updates.
- There is an open steward position for Caviness Park.
- Joe Fikentscher has taken over the position for the Peace Poll.

e. Financial Report: Lynne

- Current balance is \$2676.09.

2. Old Business

a. Holiday Decorations/Tree Lighting Recap: Lynne/Randy Jones/Ken

- Randy said that the city gave a big thank you to the SBC for all the help for the Christmas festivities. SBC made a huge difference in our town.
- In the future, the city hopes to go forward better prepared for the holiday celebration.
- Lynne stated that doing all the prep work ahead really helped the Christmas event go well.
- Next work day in February, Randy would like to see what we can organize in the back room of the jail which will be for the SBC to use as storage.
- We should evaluate what we want the back to room to look like for best use of space.
- Tom would like some shelving put in the room for easy storage.
- Wreaths will still be stored at Sunny Point.
- Lynne will talk with David K. about a better organization program for Christmas items.
- Ken recommended that the committee get together earlier in the season to recheck the lights and trees. October or early November would be a good time to meet.
- Larry gave a big “thank you” to the city for hanging the wreaths so quickly.

b. January Workday Recap 1/8/22: Lynne

- A volunteer asked Lynne if the board would be receptive to holding afternoon work sessions during the winter months. The SBC wants to stay with morning meetings as they have always been.
- Rob Thatcher cleaned up the graffiti on the new buoy adjacent to Nick’s boat and it went well.
- Joe and Lynne worked as a team of 4 to get all of the bows and garlands wrapped up.
- Joe took pictures of all of the bows and garland.
- Weeding was done at the JC building.
- Randy and Karen M. cleaned the historic markers in town. Randy stated that the old markers on at both ends of Atlantic Ave need some more work.
- There are 3 markers in the Yacht Basin area along the marsh that need to be re-evaluated because they are hard to read.
- Maybe these markers should be cleaned every 6 months to keep them readable.

c. Garbage Surround Tops Update: Ken /Tom Lombardi

- Ken, Tom and Kate measured the garbage can surrounds for new tops.
- Larry and Ken put together the tops and installed them on January 24th.
- Tom has an idea to install tubing around the garbage tops to help rain water drain away better.

3. New Business

a. Yacht Basin Boat: Lynne

- Lynne stated that the mulch in that area does not last. Mulch gets washed away easily due to weather/rain/storms.
- Lynne also stated that the plants will not last due to flooding.
- Lynne spoke with Jim Lightbourne about installing cement around Nick's boat.
- Larry believes that keeping plants around the boat helps keep people from touching the boat.
- Tom suggested that we place stones around the boat, but Lynne said we will have a big problem with weeds.
- Karen Pasquale proposed we place the suggested slab of cement around the boat with nautical roping on the outside of the cement therefore eliminating the need for plants.
- Lynne stated that we need to discuss further.

b. Upcoming Workday 2/5/22: Lynne

- Lynne hopes that the student volunteers can help cut the grasses.
- Committee members to organize the jail annex storage room.

c. Participation in events not directly sponsored by SBC.

- Lynne asked the committee, if there is a project that is not ours, should we help?
- Sharon suggested that we check our bylaws.
- Question was raised, should we be involved in Naturefest which is scheduled for April 30th, 2022.
- Randy will do the publicity for the Naturefest, but he needs an organization behind it.
- Lynne will meet with Laura Sharkey to find out what our responsibilities would be if we are the sponsor.
- Randy does not think it will be a lot of work for our committee to sponsor Naturefest.

d. Visitor

- Audrey Harron came to sit in on this meeting. At the end of our meeting, she introduced herself and she is very interested in helping out and participating with the committee.

4. Adjourned: 6:12pm

Next meeting: February 21st, 2022