**City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes**

**Date:** January 18, 2021 Minutes taken by: Karen Pasquale

**Location:** Indian Trail Meeting Hall

**Quorum determined:** Meeting called to order by Bonnie Bray at: 5:03pm

**In Attendance:** Bonnie Bray, Nancy Disbrow, Margaret Fontaine, Sharon Lightbourne, Karen Pasquale, Ken and Lynne Geiman, Randy Jones, Tom Lombardi, Maria Lowther, Rob Thatcher

**Absent:** None

**Approval of November 16, 2020 Minutes:** Minutes amended**,** approved and seconded.

1. **Committee Reports**

1. **Native Plant Pollinator Garden(NPPG**): Margaret Fontaine responds for Kate Singley

* NPPG next cleanup is to cut grasses.
* Kate asks to be put on Walking Tour.
* Randy Jones will put NPPG on Parking /Map List.

1. **Communication Report:** Margaret

* Margaret posted pictures taken of the last cleanup in the newsletter.
* Margaret requests ideas for the March newsletter.
* Margaret will contact Master Gardener for tips on Spring Cleanup.

1. **Planting Planning:** Lynne Geiman

* All the stewards have reupped for their sites.
* Firehouse planter boxes need a steward.
* Regarding grass pruning, Lynne will discuss with Bonnie.
* Lynne will meet with Planting Committee (Lynne, Sharon, Margaret, and Karen) on what plant ideas we can come up with for our sites.

1. **Financial Report:** Nancy Disbrow

* $1952.71 left in the budget.

2. **Old Business**

1. **Bylaw Amendments:** Bonnie Bray

* Motion to approve as amended and discussed/reviewed at the November meeting. Motion approved.

1. **Holiday Decorations and Schedule:** Randy Jones/Tom Lombardi/Bonnie

* Holiday decorations are down and Christmas was a success.
* The Mayor lighting the tree at Whitler’s Bench will become a tradition.
* All issues with the decorations will be taken care of by Tom and Randy (approx.. 5 wreaths have electrical problems).
* Forestry Dept. does not want a live tree at the Whitler’s bench.
* Whitler’s bench area needs to be fixed per Tom.
* Leslie Friedich will do garland and bows next November for added /replaced decorations.
* Randy is to purchase 3 trees: Two 6.5 foot trees for Franklin Square Park, and one 5 foot tree for the Keziah Park gazebo.
* Bonnie will prepare a wish list for additional garland.

1. **January Cleanup and Recap:** Bonnie

* 24 people attended the January 2nd cleanup. Many people were newcomers.
* In attendance was the Forestry Dept., Southport Historical Society as well as the Southport Beautification committee.
* Scott Glen from the Forestry Dept. showed us how to “hard” prune the azalea bushes that were overgrown. They will now be fine to grow over the next 2 to 3 years.

3. **New Business**

1. **Joint Cemetery Committee Discussion:** Randy/Tom

* Randy suggests a cemetery committee to review many issues. He would like to bring Garden Club, Southport Beautification Committee, Forestry and Historical Society together.
* John Smith Cemetery is a 501c3, non-profit cemetery.
* Norwood Cemetery is a public cemetery.
* Randy and Tom will talk to the Mayor for a plan.

**b**. **Picnic Tables:** Randy/Ken Geiman

* 5 or 6 new picnic tables to be added to Southport.
* Ken needs volunteers to help build these tables. Volunteers will assemble tables onsite.
* Committee voted for the picnic tables to be under Ken’s direction.
* Randy will go to Parks and Rec to ask for payment of product.
* A pop-up day for staining was suggested.
* Sharon Lightbourne suggests that we have garbage cans next to picnic tables.

1. **ITMH Bed Maintenance and Budget Request:**  Bonnie

* Garden Club has transferred the maintenance of plant bed at Indian Trail Meeting House (ITMH) to the Southport Beautification Committee.
* The board approved Lynn Menches as Legacy Steward of this plant bed and her request for $50 for plants and 12 bags of mulch thru the end of June 2021.

**e. February Cleanup (2/6/21):** Lynne/Bonnie

* Cut grasses – 118 grasses and 10 lantana plants.
* Bonnie’s email to ask volunteers to bring hedge cutters, gloves.
* Bonnie suggests to change the word “cleanup” to “work day” for the 1st Saturday of every month.

**f. Volunteer Hours:** Bonnie

* Bonnie has devised a “volunteer log” and requests that we all fill it out monthly for our Board related time.
* Bring this volunteer log to each meeting.

4**. Adjourned:** 6:29pm **Next meeting:** February 15, 2021