

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES May 9, 2023

In attendance: Lynne Mosteller, Sally Hayes, Sharon Smith, Julianne Mundy, Julie Mantay
Gail Thomas (guest), Brandon McCullough (guest)

- 1) Brandon McCullough, Facilities Manager, said that sprinklers will be turned on this week however the Friendship Garden is still not connected to an automatic timer. He reports that he has a landscaper drawing up plans for the old fountain area in back of Township Hall. This year O'Guinns will provide plants for in front of the Township Hall sign and Brandon will ask them to plant before Memorial Day. The BC will decide plants and colors and communicate that to Brandon. The BC will meet later today in back and discuss possible placement and sizes of pots, Lynne will get prices.
- 2) Agenda was approved with no changes.
- 3) Meeting minutes from April 4, 2023 were approved, motion was made by Sharon, 2nd by Julianne.
- 4) Seedling Giveaway Wrap Up – Seedling Giveaway 2023 went smoothly, cars moved through at a good pace thanks to plenty of volunteer 'runners' taking orders and delivering seedlings to each car. 600 seedlings were distributed to residents and were gone by 10:45 AM. We had several volunteers from various groups and all were enthusiastic about helping. For the 2025 event, we have permission from the WCCD representative to reach out in January with our order (prior to waiting for an order form in March) so we have a better chance of getting our preferred seedlings.
- 5) Budget update – Expenses to date are related to seedling giveaway (approximately \$590), the spring display of pansies in the planter urn (approximately \$160) and in the flagpole box (approximately \$110). Per Julie and Sally, we need to keep a report of the expenses for the seasonal plantings in the planter urn and share it with the Garden Club at the end of the year to show how the \$1000 donation was used.
- 6) New Business – replanting of the Bennett Arboretum wall will begin as soon as plants are available for pick up. Seedlings planted last year are doing well. Sharon says we need to keep the existing nodding onion under control by snipping the tops after blooming to avoid spread. Several woody stumps still require removal, PlantWise will be contacted to remove stumps and spray sometime this summer.
-- Commissioners discussed options for plants and colors to use in front of Township Hall. A decision was made to use orange canna, pink begonia and purple million bells (or supertunias) in the urn, use the same pink begonia and purple flower in the flagpole box and then have the landscaper plant pink begonia and purple salvia in front of the Township sign.
--Julie and Sharon reported that the City will be planting their barrels on May 31st and would love to have more help. Volunteers are to arrive at 9AM at the DPW yard.
- 7) Unfinished business – Julie Mantay agreed to serve as Vice Chairperson and was elected unanimously.
--Lynne will reach out to Nate Reilly at Parks & Rec to check status of the repair of the bench from the BA path that was damaged in 2021.
--The BC will continue efforts to have bricks inscribed and placed in the Friendship Garden in memory of both Marie Barr and Jim Morche to honor their years of service as a Beautification Commissioner.
--Jim Porterfield from Tree Champions arrived as the meeting was about to adjourn. He shared updates on his group and asked the BC to consider helping to provide seedlings in 2024 that can be planted at the DPW yard and be nurtured by Tree Champions volunteers, then eventually sold to Northville residents after 3 years. This idea is in preliminary stages, Jim will continue to research.

NEXT MEETING JUNE 6, 2023