

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 2025, AT 8:30 AM,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present: William Bonaminio, Patricia Archibald, Maria Colacrai, Susan Dillman, Cindy Braga, Joanna Giddings, Jessica Fischer (arrived at 8:45 AM)

Absent: Eliabeth Morin, Don Walsh and Jessica Feustel

Staff/Guests: John Bajor (Minutes Clerk), Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Mike Glidden (Town Planner), Danny Porco and Serhat Alkar (Atlantis Management Group), Pamela Breally (Stone Bridge Crossing), Kristine Braccidifero (Dattco)

CALL TO ORDER

Andrew Martelli called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

1. ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The roll was taken by John Bajor and the pledge was recited.

2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined and all members and guests seated.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were two corrections to the previous minutes: Elizabeth Morin was counted both present and absent and under business “Draining Basis” was corrected to “Draining Basin”.

MOTION by Patricia Archibald to approve the prior meeting minutes as corrected

SECONDED by Joanna Giddings, with motion passing unanimously by those present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no communications shared

5. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

A: Dunkin Donuts and Atlantis-Stone Bridge Crossing (Applicant: Atlantis Management Group): Danny Porco proposed 3 signs for the Exxon/Mobil convenience store and Dunkin Donuts which will be located across from Whole Foods. The gas station will be a 24/7 operation and goal is to have up and running by end of December. Signs proposed are all under the maximum square footage that Cheshire allows and applicant is working with Andrew Martelli on final details. All signage descriptions and locations were described in the application which were included and shared on the October 1st meeting.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the applicant's signage requests
SECONDED by Cindy Braga with motion passing unanimously by those present.

B: Starbucks-Stone Bridge Crossing (Applicant: Tim's Sign and Lighting Service): Pamela Brealey presented a proposal for 4 signs that will be Halo lit which will either state "Starbucks" or the "Starbucks Logo". There will a drive-through and goal is to have up and running around -mid-December once signs are installed. Signs proposed are all under the maximum square footage that Cheshire allows. All signage descriptions and locations were described in the application which were included and shared on the October 1st meeting

MOTION by Maria Colacrai to approve the applicant's signage requests
SECONDED by Patricia Archibald with motion passing unanimously by those present.

C: Cheshire Senior Center, 240 Maple Avenue (Applicant: Town of Cheshire). Andrew Martelli stated this will be a replacement sign which will now include "Donated in the Memory of Lillian Barkley" and placed in the existing spot. The current sign is showing evidence of wood rotting and will be installed November 6. All signage descriptions and locations were described in the application which were included and shared on the October 1st meeting.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the applicant's signage requests
SECONDED by Joanna Giddings with motion passing unanimously by those present.

D: Although not on the agenda, a motion was made to add **Dattco** for discussion. Dattco purchased the entire building now housing Chesprocott headquarters at 1187 Highland Avenue.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to add and discuss Datto signage at present meeting
SECONDED by Patricia Archibald with motion passing unanimously by those present

Kristine Braccidifero reported the current sign is outdated as still has Cheshire Glass for example that is no longer in business. The proposed new sign will list the current businesses and will be constructed of aluminum with a maximum of 3 colors (White, Red and Black). While the present meeting focused on Chesprocott artwork, the other tenants in the building will need to attend a future Town Beautification Meeting to agree on conformity and artwork.

MOTION by Patricia Archibald to approve proposed signage pending other tenant's approval.
SECONDED by Susan Dillman with motion passing unanimously by those present

6. BUSINESS

A. Bartlem Park Landscaping: Bartlem Park currently has a large drainage basin to retain excessive rain during severe storms. At present, the basin has been overtaken by an invasive plant named mugwort

which is difficult to eradicate and prevents other plants such as wildflowers from growing. Andrew Martelli reached out to Public Works on frequency of mowing as some parts looked mowed while other parts did not. Since the collected rain water will be fed into the local aquifer, it is critical that any weed killer used not be toxic to individuals. Andrew proposed that this be on the agenda for next meeting and will invite Public Works Engineers to address plans for Invasive Plant Control.

B. Maintenance of Commercial Properties: There are several businesses that have not maintained their properties as required under the Cheshire Blight Ordinance. The current Blight Ordinance has not been updated which needs to be addressed. Action plan at present is to put together a list of businesses and send out letters once Blight Ordinance is updated.

C. Watering Contract Discussion: As the Spring and Summer months have become drier, there is a need to hire a person to water the 24 planters in Cheshire. The current contract with Abilities without Boundaries runs from April to October and just recently ended and this position would be under a 1099, ideally someone with experience in gardening. A question was asked if a gardener should be on the Public Works Staff. This position would have specific duties as to not cross over into a protected union job. For example, watering and dead-heading plants would be allowed but tasks such as pruning shrubs are under union contracts. Andrew will discuss with Abilities without Boundaries and draft a job description opening. As for now, plan is for the committee to meet on November 23 at 10 AM in parking lot of Ball and Socket to update planters and locations. For example, the planters at Pop's Pizza and the package store might be re-located to the linear trail entrance.

D. Semi quincentennial Celebration: Ron Gagliardi and others are planning several events for the morning of July 4, 2026. Theme would be Red, White and Blue with Petunias covering the red and white and blue ribbons as an accent. Since this event is several months away, the committee has time to discuss ideas over the next upcoming meetings

MOTION by Patricia Archibald to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 AM

SECONDED by Cindy Braga with motion passing unanimously by those present.

Attest:  _____
John Bajor