

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2026 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, Jessica Feustel, Eliabeth Morin, Don Walsh

Staff/Guests: John Bajor (Minutes Clerk), Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Michael Glidden (Town Planner) and Savannah Blanz (Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Team)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:29 AM by William Bonaminio

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:

- A. Under Section 5 Sign Permit Review: Delete “corrected prior meeting minutes” to “approve permit”
- B. Under Section 6 Business, Item C (Water Maintenance Contract): Change 2nd line to “Also, particularly if a licensed arborist volunteered to teach can be retained”

MOTION by Maria Colacrai to approve the corrected prior meeting minutes

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 2 emails from Joanna deBear representing Cheshire Pollinator Pathway (and referencing Betsy Fox from the Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire) on October 27, 2025 and January 5, 2026 with regards to a grant to continue work at Mixville Park as they will be proceeding with the second phase.

This grant will cover costs of initial overstory/understory plantings within the stone wall near Welcome Sign which is within the Mixville property and close to the entrance.

Action: invite Joanna and Betsy to attend March TBC meeting to share their plans and ideas.

5. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

Michael Glidden presented 2 signed requests for the Stone Bridge Crossing Shopping Center. As these were not on the agenda, it was necessary to vote to include

MOTION by Susan Dillman to allow the changes to agenda by including Stone Bridge Crossing

SECONDED by Patricia Archibald, with motion passing unanimously by those present

- A. **Lovesac**: Known for its customizable, and modular furniture, a request for signage was presented which meets the Cheshire guidelines and specifications

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the Lovesac signage request

SECONDED by Jessica Feustel, with motion passing unanimously by those present

- B. **Entrance Signs**: Please refer to schematic drawing “The Shops at Stone Bridge”. These will list several stores including 3 main anchor stores and will be halo-lit on a small stone wall with black lettering. An identical wall will be placed on other side of road and both will be visible from the exit ramp on I-691 entering Cheshire. The first wall is offset due to the large number of underground electrical connectors (i.e. traffic lights). Discussion on landscaping that can be added such as bookends or large plantings behind walls and small annuals in front of wall.

6. BUSINESS

- A. **General Town Property Discussion**: The lacrosse field at Bartlem Park is quite visible but is also used by other sports such as soccer and discussion on what can be done to make the park more aesthetically pleasing.

The dead trees will be replaced and will be paid by the original vendor. The mugwort overgrowth in the drainage basin is still not addressed and cannot be mowed too often as will compromise purpose of the water drain. There is an urgent need for an engineer (i.e. DEP) to develop a plan to address the mugwort which is an invasive species.

- B. **Election of Officers**: The following were nominated for 1-year terms:

- A. William Bonaminio nominated for TBC Chairman
- B. Susan Dillman nominated as TBC Vice-Chair
- C. Jessica Feustel nominated as TBC Secretary

MOTION by Jessica Fischer to approve the TBC nominees as all can serve 1-year without conflicts

SECONDED by Patricia Archibald, with motion passing by majority

- C. **Home Health and Garden Show**: To be held on Saturday March 28th at Cheshire High School (see flyer). Jessica Feustel will work on design for show (i.e. retractable banner) with information on what the TBC does with recent photos. William Bonaminio has plantings including spier plants and

pansies which will be ready in time for the show.

- D. Site Plan Review: Homewood Suites by Hilton Stone Bridge Crossing:** Add more trees and more diversity such as Red Sunset Maples and possibly Oak with no low plantings (i.e. hedges). Again, need to avoid areas with highly condensed underground electrical wires.

Action for Michael Glidden to talk with Stone Bridge Crossing Developer/Planner as now is the time to change proposed trees for Spring planting.

- E. Semiquincentennial Celebration Discussion:** Next meeting is Tuesday, February 10th followed by March 10th. Jessica Fischer can attend the February meeting to represent TBC on their plans. Action for TBC to reach out to businesses that have greenhouses to start red/white geraniums and ask what they recommend as a blue flower which should be ready (in-bloom) by end of June.

- F. TBC Budget Review:** \$8300 was approved with \$3416 spent to date. The remaining \$4625 must be spent by July 1, 2026 as will be difficult to request same budget or more (\$11,300 requested in 2027) if current budget has a surplus. In reference to Semiquincentennial Celebration Discussion, signage will accompany plantings, ideally 8 signs that are 2-sided. These signs should be durable enough to last well into the late fall season (i.e. not like inexpensive campaign signs).

- G. Watering Maintenance Contract:** A request for application for a part-time contract service was crafted for Summer Gardening and Watering Services. This position will run from April through October with approximate cost of \$162.50/week or approximately \$4000 for the season. If town contributes \$3000 can raise to \$7000. According to past history, maintenance of 24 planters requires about 3 hours each visit (3 days a week). Watering is done using milk jugs and it was noted that the Town has a water truck. Action to inquire availability of water truck and how best to use.

7. Adjournment of Meeting:

MOTION by Susan Dillman to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 AM

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

Attest:


John Bajor, PhD