

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, 8:30 A.M., COUNCIL ROOM 207, 84
SOUTH MAIN ST., CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present:

Jessica Fischer
Susan Dillman
Maria Colacrai
Joanna Giddings
Pat Archibald
William Bonaminio
Cynthia Braga
Elizabeth Morin

Staff/Guests: Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager; Mike Glidden, Town Planner

Absent: Jessica Feustel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Bonaminio called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Andrew Martelli called the roll, and a quorum was present.

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. February 4, 2026

Jessica Fischer requested that under Item 6 Election of Officers, the word “conflicts” should be removed as this was not discussed. In addition, the reference to serving one year should also be removed as this was not discussed.

Joanna Giddings asked that under Item 6(a) General Property Discussion, the description of the discussion be adjusted to read “Joanna Giddings raised the issue of beautifying Bartlem Park, and Don Walsh suggested that the concerns with Bartlem Park should be addressed with the Town Council.”

Jessica Fischer asked that the reference to a “welcome sign” at Mixville be changed to read just “sign.” Don Walsh mentioned that he should not be listed as present with the committee but instead should be put under Staff/Guests as the Town Council liaison. Susan Dillman motioned to approve the minutes as amended, and Elizabeth Morin seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Email from BriAnna McConnell Adopt-A-Spot 01/18/2026

Andrew Martelli explained that an email was received from Brianna McConnell regarding Adopt-A-Spot and read the email for the Committee members.

Joanna Giddings suggested the corner of Country Club Road as a potential spot as last summer there was mugwort present. Andrew Martelli mentioned that he would propose this idea to her and ask her to come to the next Town Beautification Committee meeting in April. Susan Dillman suggested the sign at the entrance of Bartlem Park as another potential spot. Andrew Martelli to propose this as well.

7. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW / SITE PLAN REVIEW

A. Ramen Bao - Stone Bridge Crossing Applicant: Hartford Sign & Design, LLC/Darin Senna

The applicant explained that the signage has a little logo that is a noodle bowl with chopsticks. It will also be front illuminated, and they received special permission from Regency for this.

Maria Colacrai motioned to approve the sign application, and Pat Archibald seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present.

B. TJ Maxx - Stone Bridge Crossing Applicant: American Sign Inc/Anthony Lafo

Tony Lafo explained that this application is for the TJ Maxx sign at Stone Bridge Crossing. It is a standard halo lit sign reading TJ Maxx. The project has already been completed because they received Building and Planning Department approval but have now been asked to go before the Town Beautification Committee as that was not previously done.

Susan Dillman motioned to approve the sign application, and Pat Archibald seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present.

C. Mobil - 104 Stone Bridge Court Applicant: Atlantis Management Group/Danny Porco

The applicant showed the Committee the monument sign for Mobil. Previously, this was a 25-foot-tall sign but was changed to a ground monument sign. Andrew Martelli explained that the sign would now be located on Route 10, not on Stone Bridge. Andrew Martelli reviewed the site plan with the Committee. Susan Dillman inquired if the sign could be moved between the two trees instead of being in front of one and additionally requested additional plantings near the sign. The applicant agreed to both requests. Susan Dillman further mentioned that the plantings should coordinate with the plantings around Stone Bridge.

Susan Dillman motioned to approve the sign application and have the applicant return to the next Town Beautification Committee with a planting plan consistent with the rest of Stone Bridge as discussed. Cynthia Braga seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously by those present.

8. BUSINESS

A. Home Health & Garden Show - Saturday March 28, 2026 from 8:30AM - 2:00PM Cheshire High School

The Committee members discussed the plan and schedule for the Home Health and Garden Show. The Committee reviewed potential sign designs for the event and decided on one with a few discussed changes.

B. Semiquincentennial Celebration Discussion – Signage

Andrew Martelli explained that Savannah Blantz-Maria, Coordinator of Grants and Community Engagement, has been working with Sign Pro on signs for the Semiquincentennial celebration. The Committee discussed ideas for a new design. They reviewed other examples such as the sign in West Hartford. Discussion was had where to place the signs as well as potential plantings including angelonias, Victoria blue, white geraniums, and begonias.

C. Watering Maintenance Contract

Andrew Martelli updated that he will work on getting the posting out and see what the response is. He suggested setting up a subcommittee to review applicants, and Elizabeth Morin, Pat Archibald, and Joanna Giddings volunteered.

D. General Town Property Discussion

Joanna Giddings provided an update that she attended the Town Council meeting to provide her comments regarding Bartlem Park. The Environment Commission received a letter from the Mill River Watershed Authority suggesting collaboration on a bioswale. The Commission will be reviewing this and her suggestions for Bartlem Park and coming back to the Town Council.

E. Site Plan Review Homewood Suites by Hilton Stone Bridge Crossing

Mike Glidden updated that they have agreed to do additional landscaping at the frontage as well as plant a variety of species so that they do not have a monoculture present. He mentioned that he will be reviewing this out in the field.

9. STAFF REPORT

Andrew Martelli updated that the Town Manager's proposed budget included a total of \$11,300 for the Town Beautification Committee. The Committee's budget currently has \$4,625 remaining until July 1st of this year. Maria Colacrai left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Discussion was had on potential projects, and Pat Archibald recommended returning to focus on the Town Hall courtyard area. The Committee decided to add Town Hall landscaping as action item for the next meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Pat Archibald motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Cynthia Braga seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Attest:

Noelle Shepard, Management Specialist