MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.

84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: William Bonaminio, Patricia Archibald, Maria Colacrai, Susan Dillman, Cindy Braga, Joanna Giddings¸ Jessica Fischer, Jessica Feustal

Absent: Elizabeth Morin

Staff/Guests: Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Michael Glidden (Town Planner), Don Walsh (Town Council), Kristine Braccidiferro (Sign Pro Inc), Eric Noga (Electric Vehicle Charging Stations), Elizabeth Fox and Joanna deBear (Cheshire Pollinator Pathway) and John Bajor (Minutes Clerk)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by William Bonaminio.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The roll was taken by John Bajor.

3. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was determined.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was recited by all.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a correction to the previous minutes:

Under Section 8. Business, Item D, General Town Property Discussion: Revised wording should be that the Asiatic tearthumb (Mile-A-Minute) is not just at Mixville Park. Insert “suggested it be removed immediately” and remove “or likely will will spread/overgrow onto walkway”.

Additionally, there was an oversight from last meeting minutes in that William Bomaninio should be recognized for all his hard work and diligence in growing and providing plants for the Home and Garden Show.

MOTION by Maria Colacrai to approve the amended prior meeting minutes
SECONDED by Cindy Braga, with motion passing by those present.

6. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 2 letters received from Committee members Susan Dillman and Eizabeth Morin. Both expressed concern about the proposed Big-Y electric vehicle charging stations. Specifically. would like to see photos of the transformer and location as will not be visually aesthetically pleasing and if other locations were considered such as Stop and Shop which has considerably more parking space available.

7. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

A. **<u>Atlantis Management Group (Mobil)</u>:** As the April meeting was a special meeting, AMG was not on the agenda and hence could not be voted upon for proposed sign plantings. The exact plan was re-submitted and has been approved by site council and now awaiting TBC approval. No representative from AMG was in attendance.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the Mobil request
SECONDED by Jessica Fischer with motion passing by those present

B. **<u>Oasis Nail and Spa</u>:** Kristine Braccidiferro presented plans for a halo lit sign that matches the Harvey and Lewis Opticians store next door. This has already been reviewed and approved by Town Council and Regency (Developer) and now awaits TBC approval.

MOTION by Jessica Feustal to approve the Oasis Nail and Spa plans as proposed
SECONDED by Patricia Archibald, with motion passing by those present

C. **<u>Everybody's Plaza – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</u>**: In a continuation from last meeting, updated plans were presented by Eric Noga through Electrify America for installment of 10 electric vehicle charging stations (double sided) in parking lot at Everybody's Plaza (Big-Y). These are Level 3 stations in which an 80% charge can be achieved in 15-20 minutes (as opposed to current chargers that requires 6-8 hours). Project involves removing and replacing 1 tree. The transformer is to be installed (size 70 x 76 inches) at the entrance located by traffic light and will be screened by arborvitaes on 2 sides.

It was noted by the TBC that the transformer location is not ideal and could be prone to accidents. Secondly, a concern was raised about preventing advertisements and/or signage on the charging stations now and in the distant future (i.e. if company or Everybody's is sold). Thirdly, TBC suggested moving all charging stations to parking spaces next to Dowling Ford in a row (instead of double sided in middle of parking lot). Lastly, although it was recognized that Cheshire is deficient in EV charging stations, were other locations considered which have more space (i.e. Stop and Shop Plaza).

Action for Eric Noga to bring back comments and concerns to Electrify America team and replan.

8. BUSINESS

A. **<u>Mixville Park Garden Plan- Pollinator Pathway</u>:** Joanna deBear and Elizabeth Fox updated that Phase I has been completed along the entrance and will now discuss Phase II which has already been approved by Town. Both overstory (i.e. white oak, sugar/red maple, basswood) and understory (i.e.

spice bush, elderberry, lower growing perennials) species will be planted at the right of the exit 30 feet back from the road. Edging made from recycled plastic will be installed to keep the grass out. A grant for $500 was received from Suburban Garden Club and the white oak was donated by Arbor Day Society.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the proposed Mixville Phase II plans
SECONDED by Patricia Archibald with motion passing by those present

B. Street Trees for Subdivisions: Michael Glidden is working with Planning and Zoning on a list of appropriate street trees to provide for future applicants and have them pick and choose for a "Right Tree – Right Place" approach. Examples would be trees that would not have root balls lift sidewalks or grow into power lines. Note that this does not apply to personal/homeowner yards. TBC endorsed this initiative and will form a Street Tree Sub-Committee with Jessica Fischer, Susan Dillman and Joanna Giddings to modify list.

C. Regulations Updates with Town Planner Mike Glidden: The current regulations are in need of updating with regard to landscaping standards, signage and design standards, residential vs. commercial. This will increase the level of detail for new applications and will be available on the Town web site.

D. Semiquincentennial Celebration Discussion – Signage: Andrew Martellli presented proposal for "Cheshire Celebrates America's 250" on 24" by 18" double sided thin gauge aluminum yard signs. TBC suggested changing "America's" to "America" and Andrew will request a quote for 20 signs.

E Watering Mainenance Contract – Job Description: The contract was reviewed and approved by both the Union and Human Resources and will be going out today.

F. General Town Property Discussion: Planters have been re-arranged along main street. There was a request to add Mugwort control and drainage at Bartlem Park to next month's agenda along with an update on plantings at the Stone Bridge Hotel.

9. **STAFF REPORT:** No Update

10. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

MOTION by Susan Dillman to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 A.M.
SECONDED by Pat Archibald with motion passing by those present.

Attest: ______________________
John Bajor, PhD