

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.**

ROOM 207/209, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: William Bonaminio, Patricia Archibald, Maria Colacrai, Susan Dillman, Elizabeth Morin, Joanna Giddings, Jessica Fischer, Jessica Feustal

Absent: Cindy Braga

Staff/Guests Present: Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Matt Haskell (Art Effects Inc.) and John Bajor (Minutes Clerk)

Staff/Guests Absent: Don Walsh (Town Council), Michael Glidden (Town Planner), Yasser Shehata (ABC Marketing)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by William Bonaminio.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The Pledge was recited by all, the roll was taken by John Bajor and a quorum was determined.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were corrections to the previous minutes from May 6, 2026:

- A. Under Section 8, Business, Pollinator Pathway: The White Oak was donated by Davey Tree and the \$500 donation received from Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.
- B. Under Section 8, Business, Watering Maintenance Contract: It was agreed by TBC this should be stated as Part-Time Gardener Job Description
- C. Under Section 7, Sign Permit Reviews, Everybody's Plaza: Susan Dillman stated that the minutes do not sufficiently represent the concerns of the committee with regard to charging stations and the transformer. Andrew Martelli responded that representatives will attend the July meeting to discuss.

The following note was crafted by Susan Dillman: "TBC members expressed concern about the project, specifically the aesthetic impact of having large transformers and other equipment in such a prominent place, as well as potential issues with visibility and traffic flow. Additionally, a concern was raised about preventing advertisements and/or signage on the charging stations in the future, especially if either of the companies involved were sold. TBC members acknowledged that Cheshire is deficient in EV charging stations and asked if other locations with more space were considered, such as Stop and Shop or Goodwill Plaza. TBC suggested that a better alternative in the Big Y parking lot would be to place the charging stations in the parking spaces along the Dowling Ford property and place the transformers and other equipment near the fence rather than in the middle of the parking lot."

MOTION by Jessica Feustal to approve the amended prior meeting minutes

SECONDED by Susan Dillman, with motion passing by those present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Martelli noted that DPW has cleared the area at Mixville Park for plantings by the Cheshire Pollinator Pathway.

5. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

- A. **Cheshire Pharmacy – 55 Elm Street Suite 5:** No update as the applicant Yasser Shehata/ABC Marketing was not in attendance.
- B. **The Goddard School – 104 Stonebridge Court:** Matt Haskell from Art effects Inc. (Artfx) presented plans for three signs including a halo lit sign. This is a new site development in Stonebridge Court in which signs were designed and approved by landlord and conform to Town standards.

MOTION by Joanna Giddings to approve the Goddard School signs as proposed
SECONDED by Jessica Feustal, with motion passing by those present

6. BUSINESS

A. **Street Trees for Subdivisions:** The sub-committee updated the old draft with new trees for commercial properties. Action for Andrew Martelli to circulate list and discuss at July meeting. Joanna Giddings also presented a list of understory plants (i.e. bushes) that are deer resistant and salt tolerant. For cross-reference, the UConn database also has a hyperlink to nurseries that stock listed plants.

B. **Part-Time Gardener Update:** Andrew Martelli stated one application was received and will interview candidate on June 4th. The application window is now closed.

C. **Regulations Updates with Town Planner Mike Glidden:** Tabled until next meeting as Micheal was not in attendance.

D. **General Town Property Discussion:** DPW will be removing the overgrown bushes around the Town Hall Courtyard which have also been overcome with invasive vines. This will now also expose the Veteran's Memorial for better visibility. Suggestion to form sub-committee to meet on June 11th at 9 A.M. to decide what plants to purchase and install before current budget expires.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve formation of sub-committee to purchase plantings for Town Hall Courtyard before July meeting.
SECONDED by Jessica Fischer, with motion passing by those present

E. **Mugwort Control – Drainage Bartlem Park:** Mugwort is actively growing along with other flowers. Suggestion to mow followed by spot application of herbicide. There are also dead trees in the park which also need to be removed or cut down in preparation for fall planting.

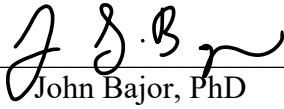
7. STAFF REPORT: No Update

8. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

MOTION by Susan Dillman to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 A.M.

SECONDED by Jessica Feustal with motion passing by those present.

Attest:



John Bajor, PhD