

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.
ROOM 207/209, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present: William Bonaminio, Maria Colacrai, Elizabeth Morin, Cynthia Braga, Jessica Fischer

Absent: Patricia Archibald, Susan Dillman, Joanna Giddings, Jessica Feustal

Staff/Guests Present: Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Dan Bombero (Town of Cheshire/Tree Warden), Jeremy Waycott (Arnco Sign Co Inc.) and John Bajor (Minutes Clerk)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 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

One correction that Cynthia Braga was present at the August meeting.

MOTION by Jessica Fischer to approve the prior meeting minutes.

SECONDED by Elizabeth Morin, with motion passing by those present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Martelli received one communication from Joanna Giddings: “Since the last Beautification Committee meeting, Susan (Dillman) and I were in touch about the Tree of Heaven in the parklet at the corner of Highland Ave. and Country Club Rd. Please see below the exchange I had with Dan (Bombero) about it.”

“Regarding the mugwort in Bartlem Park, I think it should be mowed soon as it will set seed in September. In August, I collaborated with representatives from Mill River Water Association, Save the Sound, and the Environment Commission to develop a plan for the storm water basin in Bartlem Park. What is being proposed is mitigation of the mugwort beginning this fall, followed by re-planting of the retention basin in Sept/Oct 2027. Since the Town Council assigned this project to the Environment Commission, I think that Town Council and Environment will be the best sources for updates going forward.”

5. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

- A. **Kay Jewelers – Stone Bridge Crossing:** Jeremy Waycott of Arnco Signs Co Inc. presented plans for a halo lit/soft lighting sign on the property to represent the building in the complex. This has been approved by Town Council and conforms to Cheshire standards.

MOTION by Jessica Fischer to approve the Kay Jewelers sign as proposed.
SECONDED by Elizabeth Morin, with motion passing by those present.

6. BUSINESS

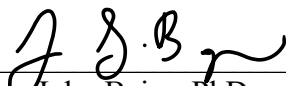
- A. **Mugwort Control – Drainage at Bartlem Park and Town of Cheshire Tree Warden Input:** Dan Bombero stated that a dual wheel tractor with a large mowing head was utilized to mow around the area. Ideal recommendation is to mow twice per year as basin is designed for vegetation growth. Therefore, control by chemical application is not desired as water within the basin flows directly to the Mill River. The current proposed plan is to mow regularly, aerate the soil and plant wildflower mix for seeding. Suggestion to mechanically remove the mugwort prior to the final mowing and add rye seed which will germinate faster than fescue with the ultimate goal that the wildflowers will eventually take over.
- B. **Pear Trees Along Goodwill Center and Dowling Ford:** These trees are not under the Cheshire Tree Warden jurisdiction and fall under the State of Connecticut. They are also under power lines in which trimming precedes any aesthetic beauty. Regardless, the trees underwent a non-ideal trimming in which more than 25% of each were removed. Jessica Fischer noted that this will result in suckers being formed and the trees will die sooner than later. Dan Bombero noted that he will receive notice from Eversource for Cheshire jurisdiction tree work but not for state-controlled areas (i.e. along Route 10).
- C. **Project Planning Discussion:** A preliminary discussion was held on the community project(s) to do this year as \$10,000 is available. Suggestions included replacing welcome signs to Cheshire, signs at Cheshire Pool and Senior Center. Also work on the Yellow House (which is no longer supported by Suburban Garden Club) and plantings at entrance of Bartlem Park and/or driveway entrance to Town Hall.

The Fall Festival will be held on September 18th and 19th and have 2 hay wagons for decorating this year (i.e. decorative cabbages, mums, pumpkins, corn stalks, scarecrows). Deadline is September 16th/17th to decorate and Andrew will reach out for flower donations.

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

MOTION by Maria Colacrai to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 A.M.
SECONDED by Cynthia Braga with motion passing by those present.

Attest:



John Bajor, PhD