

Village of Richfield Tree and Landscape Commission

Minutes – Meeting of September 10, 2018

Present: Dale Rogers, Polly Wheeler, Theresa Kovak, Gary Domanick

Ex-officio: Mayor Beshara, Walt Dorsey, Chris Papp, Ruth Jocek

Guests: Rob Morgan, Debbie Bluso Rogers

Absent: Lois Czekaj

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

Review of April 23, 2018 minutes: Theresa moved to approve; Dale 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Review of May 7, 2018 minutes: Gary moved to approve; Theresa 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- 1) Landscaping beneath new entrance signs
 - a) South end sign on Brecksville Rd was planted by John Constantine.
 - b) Sign at McDonald's has been planted but not by the Village. We do not know who did this one.
 - c) Thank you notes should be written to Constantine's and McDonald's.
 - d) Sign on north end by YRC Freight was planted by Village, including a couple of trees.
 - e) Sign on west end of Rt 303 has been planted.
 - f) Sign on east end of Rt 303 needs to be done, as does sign at north end on Alger Rd.
 - g) Photos should be taken of all signs for Village records.
- 2) Large Village sign on green at Rt 303 & Broadview Rd
 - a) Grasses will be taken out. They block visibility of the sign, defeating its purpose.
 - b) Bed was previously planted and maintained by Richfield Town Trust but does not seem to be now. This area needs to be assigned.

New Business

- 1) Rob Morgan offered a presentation of plantings to be refreshed.
 - a) Rob designed the original plan when Village hall was built.
 - b) Walt and Chris wanted Rob's help to create a cohesive plan. They also want Tree & Landscape Commission's input.
 - c) Mayor Beshara wants to put this plan in the 2019 budget.
 - d) The old plan was presented in a map format.
- 2) Approach:
 - a) Looking at inventory to find holes in what was originally planted.
 - b) Most trees are doing very well. We have lost about 8-10 out of 50.
 - c) Bushes are getting overgrown and need trimming.
- 3) Look at where we should focus labor-intensive plants
 - a) Entrances could have plants that require more work
 - b) Need low-maintenance plants in other areas
 - c) Mayor wants color in front of Village hall
 - d) Need larger mass plantings in barnstone area in front of Village hall to be seen from road

- 4) Ideas:
- a) Need to consider irrigation in some areas
 - b) Bee and bird attractors
 - c) Cannas, banana plants, elephant ears for large, eye-catching plant accents
 - d) Paw paw trees do well by streams, e.g. in front of senior center toward street
 - e) Native plants
 - f) Planter pots and raised beds, especially by senior center
 - g) Woodland/ native look by barnstones in front of Village hall
 - h) More redbuds, as the designated Village tree
 - i) Look at lighting, especially in front of Village hall
 - j) Need a light and a tree/sculpture/other item to highlight in circle at end of sidewalk behind Village hall

Rob Morgan will start to formulate a plan, focusing on the central Village hall area within the red dashed line on his map. The fire and police department areas will be added later when we know what will work well.

Rob will give Walt items for fall. T&L would like to see fall plantings of cabbage, kale and mums, as well as cornstalks around poles.

Chris brought up the idea of getting the Garden Club involved again in planting and maintaining some of the Village landscaping beds. Mayor suggested that Chris talk to Kevan Hudak, a long-time Garden Club member.

Ruth suggested that Village hire a retiree as a part-time employee to plant and maintain flowers April through October.

The idea of an Adopt-A-Spot was discussed. Mayor will put this in her newsletter.

The Wheatley Rd triangles were discussed, especially the idea of sedum and rocks in these beds.

Walt will order dwarf blue spruce trees for green color during Christmas season.

Next meeting will be Monday, Oct. 15, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by Polly Wheeler