

Village of Pinehurst
Beautification Committee

Minutes

Meeting of August 3, 2020

Village Assembly Hall
350 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst

Next Meeting: September 14, 2020
Village Assembly Hall

Present: Volunteers: D. Johnson, Chair; B. Harvey; A. McKenzie; M. Rowell;
VOP Staff: M. Apke; J. Batton; K. Brewer;
Council Members: L. Boesch; J. Hogeman.

The Meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes from the Meeting of March 2, 2020.

Chair Dee Johnson announced that Committee Member Bert Higgins has resigned. He was particularly involved with organizing trash pick-up along the roads, and this issue will need to be re-examined by the Committee.

K. Brewer introduced the update on the Budget. J. Batton explained that the NCDOT's budget remains very stressed due to COVID-19, and their ability to conduct traditional maintenance has been compromised. The VOP Council has passed Village Budget amendments to allow the Village to pay for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 plantings at the Traffic Circle. It was necessary to plan this far ahead in order to arrange for the Spring plants to be grown over the winter. The VOP will also handle maintenance on the Circle with its own Staff for the time being.

The VOP is asking the Committee to reach out to local garden clubs to contribute whatever sums they are able to help fund this effort. It is acknowledged that everyone is feeling a financial pinch, but any donations will be welcome. M. Rowell agreed to make some calls.

J. Batton advised that the VOP will use the NCDOT's 2019 Fall planting plan and 2020 Spring planting plan, with a few tweaks for simplification, for this coming year.

K. Brewer reviewed the Calendar for the remainder of the year. October 1 will start the changeover from Summer plantings to Fall in the downtown. Christmas decorations will go up the week before

Thanksgiving. It is not now known whether there will be a community Christmas Tree Lighting in early December this year.

There followed a discussion of preparations for the Christmas decorations. Bows will be ready by September. It will be necessary to have the garden clubs on board to assist with decorating. J. Batton has 4 samples of Christmas lights, and asked that a subcommittee be formed to select a light strand, and to develop a prototype wreath design in order that the necessary lengths of strands of the proper type can be ordered. D. Johnson, M. Rowell and J. Cantlough agreed to be on the subcommittee and will work on this over the next few days.

With respect to publicity for Christmas events in the Village Center, it has been learned that David Sinclair is leaving The Pilot Newspaper. Dolores Mueller, of Pinehurst Living Magazine and a master gardener, was suggested as a contact.

A new volunteer will also be needed to help with grant writing.

Project Updates.

1. The Rte 5 Railroad Trestle. J. Batton advised that he has a plan from a contractor to fix the caps, and will try it out to determine whether it will work. If so, he will figure out the cost for the project. The Railroad has taken a renewed interest in this. The object is to get the work done before the 2024 US Open scheduled in Pinehurst.
2. Hwy 5 at Midland Road. The wall is in, but the landscaping has not yet been done because it needs new irrigation installed and that has been delayed due to COVID 19.
3. Lake Hills and Monticello. This has not been done.
4. J. Batton announced a new project to install a sewer force main from Lake Pinehurst to the golf course, in order to relieve the problems with the sewer facilities on Sugar Gum Drive. Until this project is complete, it will not be possible to carry out landscaping work in the vicinity.
5. Village Acres. Chair D. Johnson asked the VOP Staff to attend to cleaning up weeds around the sign at the entrance to the community. There is no water there, so new plantings are not possible, but a clean-up is needed.
6. Fall Plantings: J. Batton confirmed that VOP staff will handle the Traffic Circle.
Downtown plantings were covered earlier in the Meeting.

Chair D. Johnson announced that she had met with Council Member L. Boesch on July 31, and a plan was worked out to allow the Committee to formulate reports to the VOP Council. Each Committee Member is to "adopt" a sector of the Village that is important to them (the Chair will help adjust sectors if there are overlaps or gaps), and Members will keep an eye on their sector and report problems or work needed to the VOP. The Village has an App called MYVOP which can be downloaded from the Village

website onto anyone's phone, and then you can report problems. The App tracks the complaints so it is possible to see the timing of when they will be dealt with. These issues should also be reported to the Chair, who will compile a list as the basis of the Committee's Council Report.

The Reports will help the Village Council plan for adequate budget and staffing for landscaping and beautification in the coming Fiscal Year.

J. Batton explained to the Committee the division of VOP Staff assignments for landscaping and beautification tasks between Buildings and Grounds (a Division of Parks and Recreation) and Streets and Grounds (part of Public Services). The difference has to do with the type of task. Buildings and Grounds has Staff with a horticultural background who can determine when pruning and fertilizing and the like are necessary. Streets and Grounds do the work of mowing and maintenance. There is a map of the different streets, triangles and intersections, based on the types of tasks needed to manage them and the Staff who regularly visit the sites, which also helps to allocate responsibility for each area. Although it sounds complicated, the Village has researched, through its survey consultant, how other towns across the country allocate landscape maintenance services. Those towns with the highest satisfaction rates divide up the tasks similarly to the way Pinehurst does.

Allocation of Staff resources for these operations was the subject of a full report to an earlier Council two years ago.

J. Batton announced that the current 4-year plan for plantings along Hwy 211 from Beulah Hill Road to the Traffic Circle is in its final year. It is time to take stock of what needs to be done to complete this project. There are some gaps in the planting. Any long leaf pines should be planted this winter.

The Meeting was Adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Hogeman