

Minutes of the Beautification Committee Meeting held October 19, 2017 at 5:45PM

Present: Maria Hunter, Chairperson; Desiree Potvin, Secretary/Treasurer  
Justin Hunter, Martha Nash  
Absent: Joseph Ingenito, Diane Marrone, Joseph Telesca  
Also Present: Robert Anzalone, Joseph Gianzero

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion was offered by Martha, seconded by Maria, to accept the minutes of the meeting held August 10, 2017. All voted in favor of said motion and the motion was unanimously carried.

**Budget Update:**

The following expenses have occurred since the last meeting: Hospice of Orange/Sullivan Counties \$200.00 (mums); Home Depot \$19.70 (leaf bags).

**On Going Projects:**

Highland Mills Library/Animal Shelter Signage - Justin and Maria will be working on this with Printing Plus. This should be finalized soon.

Holiday Décor - Desiree drafted a letter to be sent to the Woodbury Gazette and the Photo News on behalf of the Committee that explains the holiday decorations that are selected and how they have no religious intent. Letter has been attached to these minutes. The streetlight decorations will be erected the week after Thanksgiving and will come down in early January.

**Areas of Focus:**

Buena Vista – Orange County Nursery contacted the Building Department offering to beautify Buena Vista circle. It was unknown exactly what they are offering to do so Maria will reach out to them to obtain more details. In the meantime, Desiree will check with the insurance to determine if there are any issues with this.

Victory Park - The pine tree that looks like it is dying was checked by Bobby Blair and he feels that it is in good health. The tree will be inspected again in the spring.

Oak Clove - There is a tree dying at this location. When Maria goes to the Orange Nursery to talk about Buena Vista she will ask them advice on this location as well.

**Other Items:**

Halloween - We will help the Parks decorate for their Halloween party next weekend. Next year the two groups will work together to create some activities for this event (maybe a maze in the basketball court).

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be November 9, 2017 at 5:45PM.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by Joseph T, seconded by Diane, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25PM. All voted in favor of said motion and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Desiree Potvin, Secretary

**Woodbury Beautification Commission**  
**c/o Town of Woodbury**  
**577 Route 32; PO Box 1004**  
**Highland Mills, NY 10930**



November 10, 2017

Dear Residents of Woodbury:

As the winter holidays approach we are always presented with questions pertaining to the holiday decorations the Beautification Committee displays in Town. The Committee chooses to not depict any religion in the decorations that are used in our community. It is difficult to make everyone happy and we understand that even this letter may not satisfy some concerns residents may have.

The following is an opinion obtained from the Association of Towns, a support organization for Town government officials: "The First Amendment of the US Constitution stated that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .' This prohibition against establishing or inhibiting the exercise of religion applies to all levels of government. As applied to holiday displays, this portion of the Constitution has led to multiple Supreme Court opinions setting forth multiple tests, the predominant one being *Lemon v Kurzman*. This three-part test is used to evaluate whether the display violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. In order to be considered constitutional, the challenged display must (1) have a secular purpose; (2) have a principal effect that neither advances nor inhibits religion; and (3) not foster an excessive government entanglement with religion."

The Beautification Committee abides by this opinion from the Associations of Towns and hopes that all residents enjoy the decorations that are planned for this year's season. If you are interested in attending a meeting of the Beautification Committee, we meet the second Thursday of each month at 5:45PM at Town Hall. All are invited to attend and volunteer.

Sincerely,

Members of the Woodbury Beautification Committee