Bloomfield Beautification Committee (BBC)

Meeting Minutes: February 24, 2026

Time: 5:05 PM – 7:19 PM

Location: Room 2

I. Attendance

- **Present:** Sharon (Chair), Mary, Gwen, Dale, Claire, Beverly, Karolina, Rise.
- **Absent:** DPW Representative, Ruthie, Ruth, Peter.

II. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the January 27, 2026, meeting were approved (Motion by Rise, seconded by Gwen).

III. Old Business Updates

2026-2027 Calendar of Activities

- **Town Hall:** Planning for 8 hanging baskets featuring mixed violas and *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon' grass. BBC will replace winter greenery with April plantings (date TBD). Baskets will be planted on-site.
- **Human Services:** Existing 5 planters will be cleaned up from winter and supplemented with a viola mix.

Notable Landscape Awards (NLA)

- **Recognition Plaque:** Recommendation for a Town Hall plaque with 12 slots. Any resident or business winning three consecutive years will be inscribed on the plaque and retired from future eligibility.
- **Awards:** Winners will receive an artistic garden object (researching options on Etsy) and a congratulations recognition letter from the BBC.
- **Timeline:** Nominations run June–August; judging will occur the last week of August.
- **Promotion:** Winners to be recognized at a Town Council meeting and featured on the town website, Instagram, *The Messenger*, and possible poster. Winners receive certificates and lawn signs for their gardens.
- **Business Outreach:** Requesting a list of Bloomfield businesses from the Town to map out potential candidates for viewing.
- **Status:** A suggestion to invite Town staff to an Arboretum event and the formation of a small stewardship group for the Arboretum are on hold until the March meeting.

Farmington River Park (FRP)

- **Invasives:** The Parks Director is seeking a professional contractor for invasive plant removal. Due to these ongoing plans, the April and September invasive workshops are cancelled/on hold pending feedback from Director Dave Melesko.
- **Art Installation:** Four "Owl Sculptures" are scheduled to be installed in May. A special ceremony will be planned following set up completion. Information about the owls will be on BBC website page. A QR code on site at FRP about the Owls will be available for visitors.
- **Park Maintenance:** Concerns were raised regarding motorbikes damaging trails, duckweed removal, and meadow flooding. As no DPW or Parks & Rec representatives were present, these questions remain unresolved.

Budget & Sponsorship

- The BBC budget was submitted to India Rogers for presentation to the Town Manager and Council.
- A budget modification of $1,000 was requested to sponsor start-up expenses for the new Pollinator Pathway chapter.

IV. New Business

Pollinator Pathway & Outreach

- **School Project:** A Wintonbury School Parent Dr. M. Kraczkowski is coordinating with students to create a Pollinator Pathway Garden on school grounds.
  Educational Event: On March 11, Doug Tallamy will give a virtual talk at the West Hartford Public Library on "How to Create a park in your backyard." https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/event/livestream-homegrown-national-park-doug-tallamy-virtual-98540.

- **Networking:** Sharon has a Zoom meeting scheduled with Lorenzo Jones (Chicks Ahoy owner) regarding BBC collaboration.

Arboretum & Earth/Arbor Day (April 24)

- **Ceremony:** Co-chairs of Trees for Bloomfield Paula Jones (CEEC) and Sharon (Mann) are organizing an Arbor Day program from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM at the Arboretum at Bloomfield Town Hall
- **Memorial:** DPW will assist in installing a bench and a tree in memory of former Deputy Mayor David Mann.
- **Clean-up Day:** Sharon will discuss town-wide clean-up day organization with India Rogers. Note: The event may not be held on a Saturday due to town "no-overtime" rulings.

Apparel Design

- **T-Shirts: BBC has long awaited official shirts.** Sharon presents several designs and the committee selected a design with: - Front: Butterfly Design; Back: “BBC Volunteers. Join Us. Bloomfield Beautification Committee”
- **Vests:** Front: Small circular logo; Back: “BBC Volunteers Join Us.” Sharon to verify costs and availability.

Tool Sharpening Workshop

- Scheduled for **March 24 at 7:00 PM** (Room 5) following the monthly meeting. Twelve participants have registered. Ron Pitz, arborist, will lead the workshop. It is a hands on activity and everyone is to bring their own hand clippers and loppers.

V. DPW Report & Maintenance Discussion

- **DPW Absence:** Director Bart was not in attendance. Sharon will send a formal letter to DPW Director Dan Carter expressing the committee's concerns.
- **Maintenance Requests:**

1. BBC would like to install ground cover around Arboretum trees to prevent mower compaction.
2. Install wood chips in the Tulip tree bed (West side of Town Hall) to elevate the bed.
3. Acquire soaker hoses for the front strip of Town Hall.
4. Request edging for Town Hall gardens in April and August.

- **Walk-through:** The BBC reiterated its long-standing request for a joint walk-through of Town grounds where they participate with DPW to discuss maintenance.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

February 24, 2026 BBC Meeting Minutes:

The meeting commenced at 5:35 pm in Room 2 and was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Participants in attendance were Sharon, Chair, Gwen, Claire, Ruthie, Rise, Dayle, Ruth, and Peter

Minutes
The minutes for November 25, 2025.

AGENDA: Tuesday February 24, 2026

Present: Sharon, Chair Mary, Gwen, Dale, Claire, Beverly, Karolina, Rise
Not Present: DPW representative, Ruthie, Ruth, Peter
Meeting began at 5:05 PM and was adjourned at 7:19 PM

MINUTES from Jan. 27, 2026 were approved by Rise and seconded by Gwen.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

* CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2026-2027 Town Hall: 8 hanging baskets of mixed violas with Acorus gramineus 'Ogon' grass at center if available. BBC will replace winter greenery for April plantings, date to be determined. Baskets will be planted on site. Human Services planters will be supplemented with viola mix

***NOTABLE LANDSCAPE AWARDS (NLA)**

Recommending a plaque in Town Hall (TH) with 12 spots for NLA winners.
A recipient has to win 3 consecutive years in a row to be removed from winning and will be inscribed on the plaque and retired from winning again
winner will receive an artistic garden Object and note from the BBC.
Research artistic garden items on Etsy
Winners will be recognized at a Town Council Meeting TBD
Nominations for NLA run from June-August
Judging will be last week in August
Winners will be posted on Town Website, Instagram, a feature(s) in
The Messenger and possibly a poster to be put around town
Ask Town for a list of businesses with addresses working in Bloomfield.
They can then be put on a map and viewed by the BBC for consideration. A suggestion was made to invite Town staff to join in on an event in the arboretum. Sharon would like to form a small stewardship group to oversee the Arboretum These topics were placed on hold and will be addressed at the March meeting.

***FARMINGTON RIVER PARK (FRP)**

The Parks Director is looking for a professional landscape contractor to review sites by the Farmington River for invasive plant removal and a bid. Once this work is done, BBC can move forward with help in managing FRP wilder areas and invasives with their recommendations and other professional assistance. Of great concern to the BBC, and the Parks and Recreation Committee is the management of invasives near the River frontage. Thus two invasive plant workshops scheduled for April and September have been cancelled and put on hold. They will wait to hear back from Dave Melesko Parks Director.

The four owl sculpture will be coming to the Park in May. Once they are installed, BBC will hold a special ceremony to announce their arrival. (to be discussed at next meeting) Questions were raised on how to restrict motor bikes from entering the park and causing damage to the trails, when will duckweed be removed from the pond in the meadow and how is flooding in the meadow being addressed. Unfortunately, no one was present from the Department of Public Works or Parks and Recreation Committee to address those concerns.

Budget for BBC was sent in to India Rogers to be presented to Town Manager and Council.
A budget modification was also handed in asking for $1000 for the new Pollinator Pathway chapter which BBC is sponsoring for start up expenses.

***NEW BUSINESS:**

***POLLINATOR PATHWAY MEETING MARCH 25**
A mother of a Wintonbury School student is working on creating with the Students a Pollinator Pathway Garden on school grounds.
On March 11 at the West Hartford Public Library Doug Tallamy will give a talk on How to Create a backyard in your Yard.
https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/event/livestream-homegrown-national-park-doug-tallamy-virtual-98540.

Sharon has a zoom meeting with Lorenzo Jones, Chicks Ahoy owner and organizer to discuss his interests in BBC.

***THE ARBORETUM AT BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, Earth Day, Arbor Day**
Trees for Bloomfield Co-Chair Paula Jones and Sharon Mann are working on an Arboretum program and Ceremony Friday April 24 at 11-12:30pm. (Town Hall closes at 12:30 pm on Fridays)
DPW will install a tree in honor and memory of former Deputy Mayor David Mann and a bench.
Mayor Harrington and others will be asked to speak.
A Proclamation will be announced at a Town Council meeting prior to April 24 and read by the Mayor.
Sharon will talk with India Rogers about her office organizing clean-up day in Bloomfield
BBC will participate in signing folks in or where needed to help on the official day.
DPW will be asked to pick up bags of debris and other tasks they have done in the past.
Of concern, that the event may not be able to be held on a Saturday because of the No-overtime ruling by the council.

***TEE SHIRT DESIGN**
Sharon submitted a few choices for a T Shirt design, The Butterfly Design was chosen for the front and 'BBC Volunteers Join Us' was Chosen for the back
Vest will have small circular logo on front and 'BBC Volunteers Join Us' on the back. Sharon has to check on costs and availability.

***TOOL SHARPENING WORKSHOP** will be after next BBC meeting March 24 at 7pm after BBC monthly meeting in Room 5 on the second floor. Participants must sign up prior to the event. 12 have registered.

***DPW REPORT**

Bart missed the BBC monthly meeting again this month.
Sharon will send a letter to Dan Carter, Director DPW expressing BBC concerns.
Discussion ensued on the following:
Putting ground cover around the TFB trees in the Arboretum to prevent mower compaction and running over the beds.
Wood chips installed on west side of TH in the Tulip tree bed to elevate bed.
Discuss with DPW getting soaker hoses for the strip in front of TH
Requesting edging for TH gardens in April and August
The BBC would like to do a walk around TH and other areas pertaining to maintenance of all the public gardens there that the BBC maintains (with DPW) This has been a repeated request for several years.

aintenance Chores for Spring, Summer and Fall

Sharon provided us with a draft calendar as a guide for all planned activities during each month of 2026. Discussion ensued and a revised calendar will be presented at the February meeting. This calendar will give us the opportunity to stay abreast of the work we need to get done each month. The draft calendar is attached.

Dayle suggested we should have signs posted at all town gardens we take care of something along the lines of **"Maintained by Bloomfield Beautification volunteers"**

Earth Day and Arbor Day Activities

BBC will not take the lead in the 2026 Earth Day Annual Cleanup Day activities event by the Town however, we will participate if called on. We will participate in Arbor Day activities on April 24.

Tool Sharpening Workshop

Ron Pitz will hold a Tool Sharpening session at our March 24th meeting. All members should bring their hand pruners and loppers tools to the meeting.
Peter, Ruthie and Dayle will received their hand pruners at the Feb. meeting. These tools are needed at all maintenance events.

DPW Report

Bart was unable to attend. No report was given.