# Bloomfield Beautification Committee (BBC)

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026
**Location:** Town Hall – Conference Room 5

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## Attendance

**Present:** Sharon Mann, Gwen Findlay, Claire Ross, Beverly Blonder, Peter Russell, Ruthie Wilkinson, Dayle Harmon, Eunice Medwinter, Catherine Lyons, Bart Ritson (DPW), and Ron Pitz (Guest Speaker)

**Absent:** Rise Cappadona, Ruth Hanks, Mary Briggs, JoAnne Mitchell

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## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **5:42 PM** and adjourned at **6:43 PM**.

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## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from **February 24, 2026**.

- **Motion:** Gwen Findlay
- **Second:** Claire Ross
- **Result:** Motion passed

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## Opening Remarks

Sharon Mann opened the meeting by introducing Ron Pitz, former Director of the Knox Parks Foundation, board member of the Urban Forest Council, and mentor for Trees for Bloomfield. Ron led a **Tool Sharpening Workshop** at 7:00 PM following the meeting.

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# Old Business

## A. Spring Maintenance Update

- Annual Spring Cleanup begins **April 8 (9:00–11:00 AM)** at Town Hall
    - Volunteers: Gwen Findlay, Beverly Blonder
- Volunteer sign-up email will be distributed to solicit additional assistance
- Police Department cleanup scheduled for **April 14 (9:00–11:00 AM)**
    - Volunteers: Gwen Findlay, Peter Russell
- Volunteer sign-up email will be distributed to solicit additional assistance
- Dates for Municipal Pool and Farmington River Park (FRP) cleanups are **TBD**
- Volunteer sign-up email will be distributed

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## B. Community Cleanup Day

- The Town has canceled the annual Community Cleanup Day
- Proposal introduced: **"Beautify Our Parks and Public Gardens Day"**
    - First Saturday of each month (April–November)
    - Rotating park or public garden
    - Recommended as a **3-year pilot program**

**Discussion Highlights:**

- Filley Park requires additional care due to plant decline
- Japanese knotweed identified as a concern at FRP
- Sharon will consult with Glenn Gary
- Potential partnership with the University of Connecticut for student service-learning opportunities

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## C. Trees for Bloomfield

- **Earth Day Project – April 22 (11:00 AM–3:00 PM)**
    - Location: LaSalette Park
    - Rain Date: April 29
- Cummins employees, a local business, will lead invasive removal efforts in coordination with TFB volunteers
- DPW will pre-cut large invasive growth
- Volunteers will cut down and remove:
    - Bittersweet
    - Multiflora rose
    - Barberry
    - Possibly autumn olive
- Suggested future BBC project: clearing around a historic farm wall
- Volunteers encouraged to participate

### D. Pollinator Pathway Planting Workshop

- **April 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM**
- Location: Prosser Library
- BBC volunteers are encouraged to register with the Library
- Cori Presutti is seeking volunteers for a planting project near the Town Hall bus stop (planned for fall)

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### E. FRP Meeting

- Held **March 24 at 9:30 AM**
- Participants: Dave Melesko and Swamp Yankee Organic Earth Care
- Focus: invasive species removal along the river
- Professionals will handle sensitive areas near water
- Volunteers encouraged to assist
- Plan for BBC-organized **twice-yearly intervention**

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## New Business

### A. Memorial Day Ceremony Preparation

- Volunteer sign-up for:
  - Friday, May 15 and/or
  - Saturday, May 16
- Rain date: week of May 18
- Time: **9:00–11:00 AM**

**Planting locations:**

- Town Hall
- Town Green
- Electronic sign

**Future maintenance locations: Date to be sent out for volunteers**

- Municipal Pool
- Police Department
- 330 Park Avenue
- Park Avenue electronic sign

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## B. Shoutouts

Special thanks to volunteers who replanted and installed **8 hanging baskets** at Town Hall on March 20:

- Rise Cappadona
- Ruth Hanks
- Peter Russell

**Additional work:**

- Sharon Mann planted:
  - Town Hall large planter and wheelbarrow
  - 7 planters at 330 Park Avenue

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## C. Watering Town Hall Hanging Baskets

- Volunteers needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays
- Temporary need until water is turned on
- Claire Ross is coordinating and recruiting helpers

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## D. Tree-Keepers Inspections (2024 & 2025 Plantings)

- Scheduled for **May 15 – May 29** (Endangered Species Day period)
- Assignment emails to be sent mid-April

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## E. Arbor Day Celebration

- **April 24, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**
- Location: Bloomfield Town Hall Arboretum

**Highlights:**

- Tree planting in memory and honor of Deputy Mayor David Mann
- Recognition of Bloomfield's second year as **Tree City USA**
- Refreshments to follow

**Publicity:**

- Messenger (March 28) – *Save the Date*
- Flyers and social media
- Strategic Communications support

### F. DPW Report (Bart Ritson)

1. Public garden walk-through requested
2. Garden edging scheduled for mid-April
3. Liriope at 330 Park Ave to be cut back in early April
4. Mulch availability TBD
5. Tree circle mowing may cause unavoidable damage; priority remains tree protection
6. Ornamental grasses (west side of Town Hall) to be cut by DPW
7. No confirmed date for water activation
8. Clock tower boulders to be realigned
9. DPW commended for winter snow management

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## Next Meeting

**April 22, 2026 at 5:30 PM**
Town Hall Room 2

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## Adjournment

- **Motion:** Gwen Findlay
- **Second:** Beverly Blonder
- **Result:** Motion passed

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**Minutes submitted respectfully by:**
Ruthie M. Wilkinson
**Date:** March 26, 2026

**Next Meeting Minutes Recorder:** Claire Ross