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BLOOMFIELD, CT

Bloomfield Beautification Committee

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Attending: Claire, Dayle, Gwen, Karolina, Ruth, Mary, Sharon, and Peter

Call to Order: 5:30 PM
Location: Room 2, War Hawk Room, Bloomfield Town Hall

Approval of Previous Minutes

The September 22, 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Gwen Findlay and a second by Mary Briggs.

Old Business

1. Farmington River Trail – Invasive Plant Removal

- Dayle Harmon reported that invasive plant removal along both sides of the Farmington River Trail is approximately 75% complete.
- Temporary signage explaining "what's going on?" along the River Trail, estimated to cost approximately $250, is under consideration.
- Gwen suggested preparing an article for the *Messenger* highlighting the project.
- A **Train the Trainers** workshop on invasive plant removal is scheduled for October 29, with 12 volunteers registered. Colin Bennett, owner of Swamp Yankee Organic Earthcare, will lead the workshop at Farmington River Park.
- The goal is to establish two volunteer workdays annually, one in late April and another in early October. Volunteers attending the workshop will serve as leaders for these activities. Dates will be selected at the next meeting.

2. Grants and Funding

- The Arbor Day project at LaSalette Park and the Peace Pole project did not receive grant support this fall. The committee will pursue funding opportunities again with Cummins and the Arbor Day Foundation for the fall project to occur in the spring.
- The Pollinator Pathway received $200 from the Rewild plant sale.

3. LaSalette Park – Pollinator Pathway

- The Pollinator Pathway planting was completed on October 17 with six volunteers, including three children, following site preparation and provision of materials by Ron Pitz, Catherine Lyons, Sharon Mann, and Peter Russell.
- The BBC provided funding from its budget allocation for Pollinator Pathway plants purchased from Prides Corner Farms. Catherine placed the order.

4. Vista Gardens

- Sharon reported on the planting of 23 Girard Crimson Azaleas, one viburnum, and one Rhododendron 'Cunningham's White' on **Friday, October 16**.
- Follow-up plans include laying cardboard around the plantings and garden bed, followed by a three-inch layer of hemlock mulch.
- DPW has recently mowed the area, including the lower meadow.

5. Trees for Bloomfield

- Notifications are being sent to residents for the final tree inspections.
- A community survey will be distributed to determine resident preference among three tree options for replacing the 1932 oak at the Filley Park Arboretum, which has already been removed. The options include a black tupelo, an evergreen, and another deciduous tree.

New Business

6. Fall Cleanup

- The fall cleanup schedule is as follows:
  - **November 7, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM:** Town Hall, Town Green, and the electronic sign.
  - **November 14, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM:** Mary Hill Green, Municipal Pool, and the long garden between Town Green and Wintonbury Mall.
- Sharon is communicating with DPW regarding its planned cleanup tasks, as DPW intends to make one general sweep of the areas.
- The committee will leave plant stems and leaves in place as much as possible to support wildlife and the natural landscape.
- Peter and Sharon will coordinate the removal of the cannas behind the Town Hall bike rack.
- Sharon has acquired an artificial birch tree with mini-lights for the atrium at Bloomfield Town Hall. She is looking for volunteers to help with setup.

7. Notable Landscape Awards

- The committee discussed possible revisions to the Notable Landscape Award process, recognizing that advance planning is essential.
- Potential partnerships with other community organizations, such as the Lions Club or Chamber of Commerce, were discussed.
- The possibility of holding the event every other year was also considered.

8. Holiday – Hanging Baskets

- **Holiday hanging baskets will be assembled on** Friday, November 20, at 10:00 **AM at Sharon's home, 1 Adams Road**.
- Volunteers are needed to help make the baskets. Committee members are encouraged to sign up and participate.
- DPW will be asked to pick up the cone baskets at Town Hall, come to 1 Adams Road to collect the completed holiday baskets, and hang them on **Monday, November 23**.

9. School Environmental Initiatives

- Sharon reported that she attended an impressive presentation before the Town Council by the Bloomfield School Superintendent highlighting the environmental initiatives taking place in the schools.

10. Filley Park – Boulders

- It was noted that the boulders previously placed in Filley Park have been moved to the McMahan Library.
- DPW has been asked to restore the disturbed area in the park.

11. January Meeting

- The November meeting, our last meeting for 2026, will include discussion and planning for the committee's annual January gathering. \

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **6:31 PM**.