



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### **Rt 111 Beautification Committee Approved Meeting Minutes Wednesday October 21, 2015**

Members Present – Al Letizio, Jr., Bill Deluca, Anthony Berni, Lisa Ferrisi, Jay Yennaco, Laura Scott

Members Absent – Kathleen DiFruscia

Guests – Tony Deluca

Al opened the meeting at noon with pledge of allegiance and introductions.

Al explained that his thoughts were to look at the area of Rt 111 from Rt 28 to Village Green Plaza/Village Center area to have a pleasing and consistent look along the corridor. Felt that right now what is out there is not consistent with the vision and desires of the Town. Stated that what is out there needs to be low maintenance and pleasing to the eye, like what is at Assembly Row in Charlestown, MA.

Bill asked who maintains the medians now along the corridor. History of the NHDOT work, future maintenance requirements and Town involvement were provided. Town currently pays \$20,000 for landscaping along the corridor, which is an increase in funds from prior years.

Jay provided the history of the NHDOT bid for the work and that what was put out there is not low-maintenance, which is part of the problem. He felt that the biggest hurdle that the Committee needed to address and be aware of is the ongoing maintenance of whatever we propose. He pointed out that the Town uses lowest bidders and we get what we pay for.

Bill feels that we should look at the corridor in sections. Range Road/McDonalds to Rt 28 and Range Road/McDonalds to Wall Street are two distinct areas.

Laura mentioned that any work that is proposed needs to be approved by NHDOT.

Lisa recommends that only low maintenance, weather tolerant plants be looked at. Jay reminded everyone that the nicer it looks the more maintenance it requires.

Jay agrees that the corridor should be broken out into sections and it is easier to do future sections if we have an early and visible success in a portion of the corridor.

Laura mentioned that there is already a plan for the corridor from Wall Street to Hardwood, which she can send out to the Committee. This was funded by NHDOT and is in the 10-year plan for future engineering funding.

The consensus of the group was that the Rt 111 corridor from Rt 28 to Wall Street would be our study area and that it will be broken up into phases. We would get buy in for the concept as a whole and then implement in phases.

Committee talked about installing signage "Welcome to Windham" along the corridor and Anthony had example photos to share. He also felt that we should look at planning large clusters of flowering bulbs to bring that color and "wow" factor to key areas, especially since those are low maintenance. Photo examples were presented as well.

Trees along certain stretches of the corridor would be good. There are some already in the median that could be replicated and they are relatively low maintenance.

There was discussion about sprinklers and the group felt that would be great but not a priority at this time due to cost and maintenance. They should be included in the overall plan.

Ground cover of river rocks would cut down on bark mulch maintenance/replacement and if done correctly, reduce weeding costs. There is a larger up front cost but lesser costs as time goes on.

Placement of welcome signage should be at the I-93 ramps and where Rt 28 and Rt 111 intersect. The Committee will look at for the next meeting.

Lighting was discussed, including low-voltage up-lighting of trees and pole lighting that can include posts to hang banners. Laura likes the idea but would want to make sure that the total lighting was not overwhelming and cautioned that there are some homes along Rt 111 by Searles Road so we need to be aware of that. Lisa agreed that there should not be light pollution.

Anthony suggested phase 1 be planning bulbs from McDonalds to Wall Street to make that area look good since it is a blank slate. Laura asked about the sides of the road. Al felt we should focus on the medians. Laura thinks the area by Wall Street where the ledge cut is would be "softened" with some flowers and make it look more appealing.

The signs would be a good location for flowers as that would be low maintenance and good ground cover.

Jay wants the 1<sup>st</sup> phase to be landscaping from behind Al's building on Rt 111 to Wall Street. Also, removing the bark mulch in the existing landscaped islands and putting in river stone will help reduce future maintenance of those areas.

There was discussion about the timeline for this and it could be 2-3 years. The Committee will have to discuss this further once we figure out what we want to propose and how the phasing should be presented.

At the next meeting the committee will decide what we want to see along the corridor and where – trees, flowers, lighting, signs, ground cover – and how it is to be phased.

The next meeting will be 11/3 at 3:30pm at the Community Development Department. Motion made by Anthony and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill to adjourn. 6-0 in favor. Meeting ended at 1:30pm

Submitted by Laura Scott