

BLOOMFIELD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE (BBC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, Town Hall – Room 3

In Attendance: Sharon Mann, Gwen Findlay, Claire Ross, Rise Cappadona, Ruth Hanks, Beverly Blonder, Bart Ritson, Department of Public Works (DPW), Peter Russell and Ruthie Wilkinson

Meeting commenced at 5:35pm and adjourned at 7:20pm.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July 22, 2025.

Gwen moved to approve the minutes, Rise seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) **Notable Landscape Judges:** Gwen reported that Eunice Medwinter and Joshua Viera are the judges for selecting the Notable Landscape winners. Forty residential nominees were submitted and three commercial. Due to a road closure, they were unable to include a garden on Westbrook Road. Pictures will be taken at a later date. Gwen and Mary Briggs drove the judges around to view all the gardens. The three and a half hours were very enjoyable full of pleasure and amusement. Some of the nominees were new and some were repeats. This may be the last year that a repeat can win. The numbers will be calculated this week to determine the winners. The following week, all winners can expect to receive their official invitation. There will be a **reception at Filley Park on Friday, September 19th, 5:00pm-7:00pm**. The refreshment committee is Gwen and Rise. Lawn signs and award certificates will be given out to the winners. We will seek out India Rodgers and Brian Wolff for assist with our publicity and photography needs. To honor those who have consistently won, a suggestion was made to create a Wall of Fame at Town Hall to showcase each winner on a permanent plaque designed for at least 20 names. Each year's winners will have a dedicated space recognizing our most current winners at 330 Park Avenue and both libraries if approved.

B.) **Shootouts and a Big Thanks** to the following volunteers for providing maintenance to our public gardens and other projects:

- a. Sharon, Beverly, Gwen, Mary, Ruth, Rise, Claire, Ruthie, Eunice, Dayle, Peter, Walter and Brian and Beverly who had done most of the watering this year. Cathy Edwards for working with Gwen and Claire on Notable Landscape nominations.

C.) **Trees for Free Community Environmental Program:** Trees will be delivered to DPW on September 4th Thursday at 7:30am from Prides Corner Farms. September 5th Friday 8:30 am – 9:30 am. 31 trees will be tagged at DPW by volunteers. 30 Bags of compost and 34 bags of mulch will be bagged also.

A request from one homeowner to plant the tree in their backyard was denied because it violated landscaping rules. Now a beautiful pink dogwood will be located behind the electronic sign across from Town Hall. Letters will be sent to homeowners regarding tree pickup, a link to how to plant their tree and when to water. Three treekeepers will each be given names of residents whom they will contact and assist them in best locations to plant their tree. Homeowners will be responsible for reaching out to DBYD.

Homeowners signed waiver indicating that their tree must be planted in the front yard. Trees will be available for pickup at DPW on Saturday, September 13th, between 9:00am and 11:00am. BBC members and Treekeepers will be asked to come help the homeowners load their trees into their vehicles. If trees won't fit, Ron Pitz will deliver the

trees in his trailer. Homeowners will be given a booklet and video explaining how to care for their trees.

D.) **TreeKeeper Mulch Program:** Great Job to Sharon, Walter and Brian. The mulching project at 330 Park Avenue and along Park Avenue has been completed. Finally, after three years of having no mulch applied by DPW, the Treekeepers accomplished the job of protecting the trees that volunteers planted on Town properties.

E.) **Paul Butler Gateway Presentation:** Paul Butler has been rescheduled to join our next meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd at 5:30pm for a presentation on Gateway Plaza that will occupy the town land across from Gabb Road and Bloomfield Avenue. Just so everyone knows, we are an advisory committee for this project. Sharon asked, that we please review/study the plans in advance of our meeting. To ensure a productive discussion, everyone was encouraged to please come prepared with any questions and comments we may have. The meeting will be held upstairs in Room 5 at 5:30pm. Here is the link.

F.) **Pollinator Visit** August 28: A show of hands was taken to see who was interested in touring the pollinated garden. After a show of hands, ten members indicated a strong interest in the tour. Due to the garden location, all agreed to carpool, meet at 5:15pm in the parking lot behind Eagle Credit Union off Cottage Grove Road, and then, proceed to 697 Cottage Grove Road. Wearing shoes, socks and long pants was advised.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) **September Maintenance Dates:** Farmington River Park is in need of some mulch. Some of the shrubs in the garden appear to have been run over by an ATV. Also gate was left unlocked. Bart will make certain the gate is always locked. Kelly Mann and Roger Snide created a fish weathervane on the Utility Pole at FRP. The Garden path could use some additional stone on pathway. The maintenance and funding for our parks need to be increased.

One more round of maintenance for the following areas:

- Mary Hill
 - Plants are difficult to maintain here, recommend digging up the carex ice dance on the south side under the oak tree., Maintenance scheduled October 11, from 8:30am to 10:30am to accomplish this task, weather permitting.
- Police Station
- Town Hall need additional stone on pathway between Milly Zito Garden and Town Memorial garden.
- Town Green
- Electric Signs
- Farmington River Park
- Municipal Pool

Beverly recommended, next year we implement a three-person rotation team to water the plants during the summer. She will collaborate with Claire and Ruth about joining her. Sharon is in the process of asking for irrigation for the front bed at Town Hall.

B.) **Fall Decoration:** Adding some perennial mums to the gardens are being considered, so we don't have to keep planting them every year. Last year the scarecrows were a major draw; we are bringing them back to build on that great momentum. Cathy Edwards is working on that project.

C.) Bart – **DPW Report:**

- a. To service the computer board behind the electric sign on the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Mountain Avenue, clear access is required. Currently, the cannas are blocking access, moving forward access to the computer board is no longer to be blocked.
- b. It was suggested this location could be an excellent home for the extra pink dogwood tree.
- c. Town Hall grounds will receive attention from designated DPW staff, who will be removing weeds from the public garden areas on a weekly basis.
- d. The road work initiative includes micro-paving to seal roads and putting in new sidewalks in multiple locations.
- e. According to Bart, non-selective herbicide applications will continue in areas with invasive vegetation in public gardens on Town property.
- f. Tonight's concert is the last of the season on the green. The stage, however will remain in place for the upcoming Food truck festival.
- g. Water will be turned off a week and a half at town hall prior to the Food truck festival.
- h. BBC asked Bart to use extra precautions for the Zinnias between Town Green and Wintonbury Mall by using flagging around the flowers while the water is off for protection and to prevent residents from not walking through the gardens.

Next meeting September 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm, Room 5 second floor

Gwen motioned to close the meeting; Rise seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes Submitted Respectively by: Ruthie M. Wilkinson

Date: August 31, 2025

Next meeting minute scribe: Gwen