

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the
Aberdeen Appearance & Beautification Commission

April 16, 2019
Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Town Hall Conference Room
115 N. Poplar St.

The Aberdeen Appearance & Beautification Commission (ABC) met on Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. for a regular meeting. The meeting was held in Town Hall. Members Present were Chairperson Janet Peele, Dene Moon, Elease Goodwin, Teressa Beavers, Eldiweiss Lockey and Amanda Robbins. Member not present was Dale Streicker. Staff members in attendance were Senior Planner Kathy Blake, Planning Director Justin Westbrook, and Administrative Assistant Megan Henderson. Lunch was provided by the Town. Bert Higgins of the Pinehurst Appearance Commission was also present.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Peele called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Ms. Moon to amend the agenda to include discussion for the NC Legislature's tree bill. Motion unanimously carried 6-0.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. March 12, 2019

A motion was made by Ms. Beavers, seconded by Ms. Goodwin, to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 12, 2019. Motion unanimously carried 6-0.

3. Welcome to Pinehurst Appearance Commission

Chairperson Peele welcomed Bert Higgins of the Pinehurst Appearance Commission and thanked him for attending.

4. Discussion of NC Legislature's Tree Bill

Director Westbrook presented a bill currently in the senate of the NC legislature: "Senate Bill 367 to Clarify Property Owners' Rights", stating its intent is to prohibit tree ordinances without special legislation. Director Westbrook stated it is very difficult to get special legislation and that the Town's power to govern trees is being taken away. Any ordinances adopted by special legislation are allowed to remain; however,

Aberdeen has no special legislation for tree ordinances in place. There was some discussion about the content and effects of the bill.

Ms. Peele asked if the committee would like to write a letter to the state representatives, and if the committee would like this item to be put on the Board of Commissioner's agenda, prompting their influence.

ABC members agreed they would like a draft of a resolution by the May meeting for approval. Director Westbrook stated an emailed version will be sent to ABC members prior to then.

A motion was made by Ms. Beavers, seconded by Ms. Goodwin, to direct staff to explore writing a letter petitioning against Senate Bill 367 to be agreed upon at the next available ABC meeting. Motion unanimously carried 6-0.

4. Planning for Downtown Landscaping Beds and Planters

a. Spring Planting Schedule for Downtown / Design & Plant List / Entry Signs

Director Westbrook stated he needs ABC to come up with a plan for plants, quantities, etc. so he may direct Mr. Brinkman accordingly. In the meantime, Mr. Brinkman and Director Westbrook visited various signs and discussed plantings at the bases as well as larger plantings on the backs, and possibly larger trees on the sides. Director Westbrook conveyed the ABC's goals and desires to Mr. Brinkman. In the recent proposed budget, Director Westbrook has requested additional funds for landscaping.

Ms. Beavers asked about the area around traffic circle in Pinehurst and if it was maintained by the Pinehurst Appearance Commission. Mr. Higgins stated they handle the inner circle, but DOT maintains the overall traffic circle.

Ms. Robbins stated Pinehurst has a full time staff for landscaping, versus the Town of Aberdeen's part time person, and suggested the ABC push for a full time crew that is fully capable of the required work.

Planner Blake stated the plan is for any new plants to be in place by May 3rd. Chairperson Peele stated not everything can be done by May 3rd, nor should it be. Some things should be left in place for now until closer to Spring Spree.

The commission reviewed various signs and the plants/trees surrounding them as follows:

Town Hall - The commission would like the Nandina currently by the Town sign to be relocated. Chairperson Peele stated the tree could be potted and stored at

Public Works until a new placement is determined. Weeding needs to be done under the crepe myrtle and removal of chutes is necessary. Cleyera tree is to be removed. The Indian Hawthornes need to be pruned and are **not** to be sheared. Chairperson Peele asked what colors the ABC would like planted in that area. Ms. Robbins suggested sunpatiens. Ms. Moon suggested perennials. Chairperson Peele suggested white lantanas. The 3 trees near water department are very shaded. Chairperson Peele suggested Bouncing Patiens around those. Ms. Robbins suggested pink, purple, and white. Chairperson Peele said purples tend to recede in the dark, whereas whites and yellows are very vibrant. Chairperson Peele stated the rocks and stones surrounding the beds need to be refinished or rearranged. Chairperson Peele stated this can be done prior to Spring Spree and Mr. Brinkman can begin all of this after the Town sign is refinished.

Millstone, across from Town Hall, Mayor's Garden – Chairperson Peele stated the Pansies placed here failed. The area between sidewalk and the stone is 3 ft. from the outer diameter to the inner diameter. There are 57 pansies currently, which is too sparse. Chairperson Peele suggested Mediterranean Apricot Broadeye Vinca for that area, perhaps about 100. These cannot be planted until the soil is 62 degrees and can be done after Spring Spree.

Bed #4 (Library) – The circle is 10 ft. in diameter. There are 4 mustard plants and 72 yellow pansies currently planted sparsely there. Chairperson Peele stated given the nearby flag, it is a great opportunity for the usage of reds, whites, and blues. Chairperson Peele suggested Black and Blue Salvia, which is also the best hummingbird plant. Their height is up to 3ft. and they would be great for the base of the flagpole. Members agreed on 7 or so Black and Blue Salvia in a half-moon shape, surrounded by a larger half-moon of Red Vinca Cora. 72 of these would be needed, at least 2 flats of 36. A larger half-moon is to be placed around that of white flowers, possibly Scaevola (Fan Flower). The plant is heat tolerant with no disease or bug problems.

Sidewalks of library – The plants currently against the building are yellow knockout roses. Chairperson Peele suggested Scaevola along the sidewalks as well. Ms. Robbins suggested using the same red and white plantings from the circle and alternating it down the sidewalk.

Library Yard – Behind the stone in library yard, there is currently a dead holly. The other side has a very robust holly, therefore, the dead holly needs to be removed. If the goal is symmetrical landscape, the healthy holly should be removed as well and two new hollies should be put in their place. The healthy

holly cannot be relocated due to its size and the necessary equipment to move it. The ABC agreed to remove both hollies, with the replacements to be determined at a summer meeting.

Library along Main St. – Briars need to be cleaned out, as well as yucca and cherry laurels. On the back of the building, there is an electrical receptacle that needs to be addressed by Public Works.

Across from library on Main St. – There are currently pink dogwoods. Chairperson Peele asked if that bed was being maintained by the Town or the business owner. Director Westbrook stated staff would look into it.

Bed #8 (Main St., Hone Traditions Store) – There have been no issues recently with the owner placing chairs in the bed. There is currently blood vein soil, with yellow, orange, and red Gerbers, as well as lantanas and 3 lavender Salvia. The area needs weeding. The yellow pansies are sparse. There should be more plants for next year, since it is too late to get pansies at this time.

Across from bed #8 – Ms. Moon stated she would like the trees to be shaped. Planner Blake suggested setting specific guidelines for shaping of these trees. Ms. Robbins suggested hiring an arborist for at least a few hours for specific pruning, to be led by Ms. Moon. Director Westbrook stated if the extra money is available in the budget, it can be looked into. Director Westbrook stated it is okay for Ms. Moon to contact someone for a consultation and an estimate to present to staff.

Bed #6 (Smaller bed in front of home traditions) – This is currently a dead area, possibly containing cannas. It will need a couple flats of plants. Chairperson Peele suggested 6 or 7 hot lips. Members agreed.

Bed #7 (Main St. Railroad) – There is currently lavender Salvia and Rosemary, as well as irrigation and a faucet. Dead rosemary should be trimmed out, compost should be added, and dead leaves/branches should be cleaned out. This bed should be a top priority. Ms. Robbins suggested staying with the uniformity of the flowers we are already using. The ABC agreed for Yellow Lantanas to be placed here.

Bed #12 (Comb's bed, Renee's) – Currently full of overgrown ivy and rosemary. Chairperson Peele suggested the ABC taking over the bed. It has pretty stepping stones that can be used. The tree present is to be left alone. Since the bed is on

the shady side of the road, Heuchera is to be placed as well as Bounce inpatients. Chairperson Peele will give quantities to staff.

Mr. Higgins stated the next Pinehurst Appearance Commission meeting is set for the first Monday of May and there is an open invitation for Aberdeen to attend.

Ms. Goodwin asked Mr. Higgins about Pinehurst's dates for plantings. Mr. Higgins stated the areas around their gateway signs are being planted on May 2nd and stated they buy all of the plants and the garden clubs are assigned to certain locations for planting.

Ms. Moon and Mr. Higgins left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Planters - Four 6-inch pots of dragon wing Begonias, pink or red, to be planted per planter. The Camelias should be worked around, the soil line should be brought to the top, and sweet potato vine should be added.

Bed #10 (110 W. Main St., across from church and library) – Currently has Pistas tree, pansies, mustard, 3 patches of daffodils, water, 3 red knockout roses, 7 clumps of daylillies, and begonias. The ABC would like to pull out the mustard, but keep everything else, as well as add purple wave petunias and sweet potato vine.

Depot – Ms. Goodwin stated the fencing needs to be painted. Chairperson Peele asked if ABC should try to get it painted during this budget. Director Westbrook stated there may be funds available elsewhere if the current budget does not allow for this project.

Elise Goodwin left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

#5 (Methodist church) – Should match bed #10.

Planner Blake stated there were complaints of the tree in the bed being too high and blocking the church sign.

Bed #11 (Plan B) – The fence is still broken and needs the posts replaced. Jasmine is currently there. Plantings are to be determined, but the bed area should be cleaned up.

Trees on Main St (3x3 squares) – Mr. Brinkman should remove the water donuts from the new trees on Main Street and save them for use elsewhere. Potted plants are likely to be stolen; therefore, plants are to be determined.

Bed #14 (Gateway signs, Cookout/Walmart) - To be determined at next meeting.
Garden club will be sponsoring some gateway signs.

6. Downtown Projects

a. Mural Update

Planner Gallimore was not present for the mural update.

b. Caboose Decorating Schedule

Planner Blake stated staff is working with the Downtown Aberdeen Advisory Board to come up with a list of holidays and events for decoration. Chairperson Peele stated the garden club can decorate for Spring Spree, as the ABC's workload is already full. Planner Blake suggested giving garden club free reign of decorating for this event.

7. Other Business

a. Budget

Director Westbrook passed around a draft budget (See Attachment A) for members to review and stated the budgeted line items are negotiable. The goal is to negotiate next year's budget, using this template. Mr. Brinkman's salary is not part of ABC's budget. The budget should be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting for adoption.

A motion was made by Ms. Beavers, seconded by Ms. Robbins, to adopt the budget. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

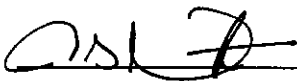
Director Westbrook also pointed out that the entrance to the depot is changing to accommodate handicap accessibility, so the ABC may want to address that area:

b. Next Meeting Date: May 21, 2019

i. Lunch will be provided by Elease Goodwin.

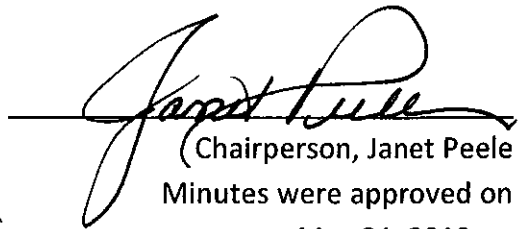
8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Lockey, seconded by Ms. Robbins, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.



~~Admin. Asst. Megan Henderson~~

Minutes were completed in **PLANNING DIRECTOR**
Draft Form on April 30, 2019 **JUSTIN WESTBROOK**



(Chairperson, Janet Peele
Minutes were approved on
May 21, 2019