

**MINUTES**  
Regular Meeting of the  
Appearance & Beautification Commission

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Tuesday, 12:00 pm

Robert N. Page Municipal Building  
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Appearance & Beautification Committee (ABC) met on Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at 12:00 pm for a regular meeting. The meeting was held in Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Janet Peele, Teresa Beavers, Eldiweiss Locky, Amanda Robbins, Dene Moon, and Elease Goodwin. Members not in attendance were Dale Steicker. Staff members in attendance were Planning Director Justin Westbrook, Planner Christian Haas, and Administrative Assistant Maria Carpenter. Lunch was provided by Eldiweiss Locky. Others in attendance were Angela McKew.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Peele called the meeting to order at 12:16 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was amended to do review of minutes at the end of the meeting.

3. Review of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting of June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Chairperson Peele stated that camellias was spelled wrong in minutes. Ms. Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Robbins, to approve June 18<sup>th</sup> minutes. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

4. New Business

a. Spring Plantings – ASSESSMENT

Chairperson Peele stated that potato vines need to be cut back, as the petunias can't get through, there are many weeds, beds need to be looked at every week, many of the beds were looking good, but it got so hot, they weren't getting enough water. Chairperson Peele stated that some kind of irrigation system may be necessary to make sure plants are getting the water they need. Chairperson Peele stated that the ivy at Main and Sycamore was supposed to get pulled out, but has not been yet. Chairperson Peele stated that a full-time person is really needed to get everything done. Director Westbrook stated that he would like a checklist of what Mr. Brinkman needs to get done weekly, so he can follow up with him.

Chairperson Peele asked everyone to make some notes on what they like and don't like for next spring. Ms. Robbins suggested also making a schedule for maintenance of what was planted and needs to be taken care of.

Director Westbrook went over the budget and planting schedule. Ms. Robbins asked if an irrigation system could be paid for with budget. Director Westbrook stated that he thinks they should move forward with some kind of irrigation project. Chairperson Peele stated that originally everywhere the ABC planted, they got a property owner to take care of that spot. Chairperson Peele stated that the board needs to make sure someone is committed to irrigation before planting, and that they'll need to determine what is needed and how much it will cost.

Director Westbrook introduced Angela McKew to the ABC members and stated that she wanted to talk about the concrete planters that are located on South Street. Ms. McKew stated that the planters are not being maintained, no one is interested in maintaining them, and they really don't look good right now. Ms. McKew stated that she would like to see them moved. Ms. Robbins stated that she would like to take some and maintain them somewhere. Chairperson Peele suggested seeing if any businesses wanted them and maybe Public Works could come help move them.

Ms. McKew asked if the small grassy area next to Sandhills Realty and High Octane could be incorporated into ABC areas. Director Westbrook stated that the budget does have some money that could be used. Chairperson Peele stated that with the extended sidewalk going in there, maybe some kind of screening could be done, and the board would keep that in the consideration pile.

Director Westbrook described the Railhouse parking lot paving project. Director Westbrook stated that there would be planters by the extended sidewalk by Sandhills Realty and High Octane, maybe red or sugar maples in the beds. Director Westbrook stated that sometimes with a project, we can't get the whole thing done at once, so he and Planner Haas will incorporate a policy to do one microproject every month. Ms. Robbins asked what would be done with the extended sidewalk. Director Westbrook stated that it would narrow the street which hopefully would help slow drivers down, and it would also provide an area for outdoor seating for places like the Mexican restaurant. Director Westbrook stated that the Planning Department hasn't done much for downtown development except for events, but you need improvements to get tenants in, to make the area more walkable, and to get people to come spend time in the downtown area. Ms. McKew asked about filling in the bed by High Octane and just have a bed in the new extended sidewalk. Director Westbrook stated that we would have to work with them, as it is private property.

b. Meeting Report (Janet Peele), Sycamore Street – Hollies

Chairperson Peele stated that she and Ms. Moon met with Pete Morris, an arborist, to look at 3 Emily Brunner holly trees on Sycamore. Chairperson Peele stated that they are nice trees, approaching 30 feet tall, but Town has to cut them out to make room for cars to park. Chairperson Peele stated that Mr. Morris thought he could limb them out from the bottom and make canopy trees, which he stated would cost about \$100 each, where he would do the cutting, if Public Works could put up cones and take away the brush.

Ms. Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Dr. Beavers, to cut the hollies and take the money from summer plantings. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Dr. Beavers stated that the wall across from the Galaxy looks terrible and asked about getting it painted. Director Westbrook stated that it was not owned by the Town, so a lease would be needed and that would take some work, but if the board wanted to move forward, let him know. Ms. Robbins stated that it's a good idea, but we should probably wait awhile before doing another mural. Dr. Beavers stated she was just thinking of having it painted, not necessarily a mural.

c. Depot/Museum Landscaping

Chairperson Peele stated that Public Works built a ramp for the Depot, but there is shrubbery there and it should eventually come down as they get too tall, also, the holly against the building is under the eave and needs to go. Ms. Robbins asked if they can all be ripped out? Chairperson Peele stated that they should keep it as it is until cooler weather, and they need to plan on re-landscaping that whole end of the building, as the side is overgrown, half dead, and all of it needs to be pulled up. Chairperson Peele stated that if Mr. Brinkman would just clean up the area between now and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September for the reunion, they could make a new plan for the area for end of year. Chairperson Peele stated it doesn't need mulch, just pull up anything dead, and trim out dead limbs. Chairperson Peele stated that there is an old iron grate under the window that is broken and needs to be repaired also.

d. Fall Plantings - PLANNING

Chairperson Peele stated that pansies, and possibly some bulbs to come up in the spring should be part of the fall plantings. Ms. Robbins stated that the pansies need to be thicker, plant more of them. Chairperson Peele asked if they should buy wholesale or local. King's is a wholesale grower and there is an account with them. JJ's in Carthage is a local grower used and Chairperson Peele stated that she can get a list from them to see what they are growing. Chairperson Peele stated that the advantage of pansies is they will bloom every time there is a warm day. Chairperson Peele stated that *Bergenia Cordifolia* is a good accent plant with pansies. Ms. Robbins asked if they are taking out the camellias? Chairperson Peele stated that the camellias can be used by the Depot or be planted someplace else, and maybe look at getting some camellia standards and put them in planters. Director Westbrook stated that they can figure out a plan at the next meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Fire Hydrant Painting Contest – UPDATE

Director Westbrook gave brief update on fire hydrant contest.

b. UDO Rewrite – Stage 4 (Chapter 5 – Development Standards)

Director Westbrook gave an overview of the Stage 4 UDO Rewrite for Development Standards. Director Westbrook stated that it includes standards for parking, lighting, signage, open space, screening, etc. Director Westbrook stated that he would like to hear any feedback the board has.

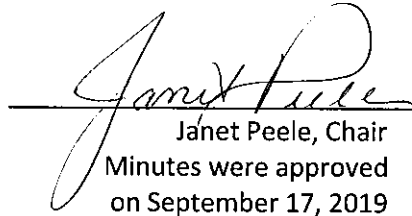
6. Other Business – there was none.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Goodwin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moon, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.



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Maria Carpenter, Admin. Assistant  
Minutes were completed in  
Draft form on August 20, 2019



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Janet Peele, Chair  
Minutes were approved  
on September 17, 2019