

Somerville Main Street

Design & Block Captain Committee

MEETING MINUTES 1/19/10

Start Time: 6:45 PM

Location: Mannion's Pub & Restaurant

Chairperson: Bonnie Allen

Attending: Bonnie Allen, Donna Deery, Sherman Feuer,

Cynthia Hollod, Jan Lush, Lorraine Sarra, Michael Tarantino

TOP ISSUES: 2010 Holiday Decorations, Flags, Banners, Benches, Self-Watering Planters, Planter Relocation

Old Business:

1. Bicycle riding on sidewalk.

Notes:

1. Yellow door hangers from Ridewise do not mention anything about riding on sidewalks. Do we want to place a sticker on them and use them? Sherman Feuer mentioned that even though bike riding on the sidewalk is illegal, police are not enforcing that law. Door hangers will be forwarded to Jane Kobuta who is making bicycle & sidewalk safety a priority for Somerville.

Review of 2009 Holiday Decorations/2010 Plans

1. The snowburst lights look great now that they have been turned to the correct angle. We need to purchase more snowburst lights for remaining poles for 2010.
2. Real wreaths didn't last long before they browned this year. We want to purchase quality artificial wreaths in the future. Artificial wreaths will take the pressure off of Public Works to install/tear down, and also will save us money by not having to pay Yanetta's to string/unstring lights on real wreaths every year.
3. The LED lights on the wreaths are too cool (blue) in comparison with the warm LEDs on the snowburst lights.

Notes:

1. We need to wait until the budget is finalized, and then we will look into purchasing more.
2. We will purchase one quality wreath to verify they will look good with the snowburst lights on every pole. We will purchase in quantity when the budget allows. If the budget does not allow for this in 2010 (with the purchase of the additional snowburst lights) we will use real again this year, but go to all artificial in 2011.
3. The existing cool LED lights will be used in the walkways in 2010, we will purchase warmer LED lights for the wreaths.

Flags

1. We need to replace approximately 35 flags/poles this Spring. We will order new flags from Northeast Flags that have a lifetime guarantee on the fiberglass pole and bracket. These flags do not tangle in the wind.

Notes:

1. We will place a first order of 45 flags and poles and replace existing flags as needed. We will continue with larger flags on Main Street and smaller flags on side streets.

Banners

1. We need to purchase banners for gateway light poles. We will allow special event banners on light poles and will try to encourage their use over the use of the large banner that flies over Main Street that is hard to read in the wind, and that don't last more than a few seasons.
2. We should always look like we are full of energy and activities.

Notes:

1. There will be 10 welcome banners for 5 gateways. (by Krauzers, McCormicks, Mountain Ave. & 28, Mountain & Somerset Street, Bridge & Main Street). We will allow a maximum of 20 banners for special events. (Friday night cruising; Tour of Somerville; St. Patrick's Day, Street Fairs; Jazz Fest; Sampler Day, etc.) Pole layout will be available next meeting. We need to check out cost for brackets and banners. Sherman Feuer will look into cost for same material as the "Ribbons for Heroes" signs are made from.
2. We need to discuss what to use for 'dead times' in Somerville.

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Benches

1. We have approximately 35 benches. The ones on the sunny side of the street look more weather-beaten than those on the shady side.

Notes:

1. We will look towards just maintaining these and not replacing them with other benches/materials. Bonnie Allen will review 2009's RFQs for this.

Planters/Planter Study

1. We need to decide if we want to remove existing planters.

Notes:

1. We will ask Main Street, NJ to help with a planter study. We can also ask a landscape architect to consult on our whole streetscape. We will look towards implementation of any changes in 2011. Bonnie Allen will review 2009's RFQs for this.

Walkways

1. Main Street, NJ designers are already creating plans for our walkways.
2. Firemans' Alley, Shanahan Walkway, Giardina Walkway and Kugler Walkway all need their coach lights adapted for plug-in electricity.
3. Lorraine Sarra asked about previous dedications of walkways (i.e. Jean Moore, for her service to the town.)

Notes:

1. We will wait for their plan to decide what we will implement for our walkways.
2. The alleys will be electrified.
3. Lorraine Sarra will see if she can find a paper trail for previous dedications.

Self-Watering Pots & Inserts

1. We need to use self-watering pots to cut down on labor costs to water during dry summers. We have found small inserts to put in our existing pots, and have investigated purchasing a larger (30") self-watering plastic planter.

Notes:

1. Donna has ordered swatches of colors from Highland Products Group. We will choose a color and order one pot as a test run.
2. The existing pots are in need of some paint if we are not going to replace them. If we continue to use existing pots, we will purchase one-gallon self-watering inserts to make them less costly to maintain.
3. There are plans on the web for making your own inserts, maybe Somerset Vo-Tech can assist us with this project.
4. Cynthia Hollod mentioned other towns use the gel in diapers for water retention in their planters. We will look into this option also.

Miscellaneous

1. The newspaper kiosks look poor and out of place on Somerville's Main Street
2. Some pavers are still a problem because tree roots are moving them.

Notes:

1. We cannot remove them due to Freedom of Speech Law. Lorraine Sarra will look into some sort of cover for the kiosks that will be more in line with the streetscape.
2. All the money has been spent for paver repairs. Please notify the DMC office of urgent issues. Lorraine Sarra mentioned the pavers on the street side of her planter are in poor condition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Please note next meeting date – Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at Mannion's Pub & Restaurant

Notes for next meeting:

We need to discuss sidewalk maintenance and RFQ for this at next meeting.

Summary/Notes for Board & Staff:

1. Pole layout for next meeting
2. Order wreath
3. Order flags & poles
4. Ask Main St. NJ for planter study

Next Meeting Scheduled for: Date: 2/16/10

Time: 6:30 PM Location: **Mannion's Pub & Restaurant**

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Deery – 1/20/2010

Minutes accepted: ___/___/___

Minutes accepted with the following revisions: _____

___/___/___