Town of Groton, Connecticut

Beautification Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340

Town Manager: 860-441-6630

Town Clerk: 860-441-6640

Chair Lian Obrey, Ilona House, Bruce McDermott, Shirley Mitsko and James Sammons

Thursday, August 6, 2026	**4:00 PM**	**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 3/Hybrid Virtual Meeting** 134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton Visit www.groton-ct.gov for Zoom details

DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Obrey called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

In Person:
Chair Lian Obrey, Bruce McDermott, Shirley Mitsko and James Sammons.

Also present: Volunteer Sharon Demato

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. June 4, 2026

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 4, 2026, by McDermott, seconded by Sammons.
Vote: 4, 0, 0. Motion passes unanimously.

3.2. July 16, 2026

Motion: To approve the minutes of July 16, 2026, with corrections, by McDermott, seconded by Sammons.
Vote: 4, 0, 0. Motion passes unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1. Communications

There was a Facebook post and information was shared at the recent Town Council meeting regarding Beautification Committee volunteers.

Kim Singer has volunteered to take over the John Kelley statue.
An individual named Amy has expressed an interest in adopting a garden and volunteering at large events.

An individual names Hannah indicated that she would like to get involved after the 1st of September.

Chair Obrey spoke with an RTM Representative. There was concern that the Beautification Committee was spending taxpayer money on a garden and then the garden was not maintained. Chair Obrey informed the Representative that their funds were allocated out of Nip funds during the budget process. This information will be confirmed.

The Committee is considering Art in the Park, with sculptures in various gardens. Mr. McDermott has volunteered to place some of his sculptures in a garden at the Town Hall and Police Station temporarily, and, if the Committee chooses to in the future, put in something that is more permanent, such as a stone cairn.

MOTION: To place Bruce McDermott's sculptures temporarily at the Police Station and Town Hall, by Sammons, seconded by McDermott.
Vote: 4, 0, 0. Motion passes unanimously.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Beautification Awards

A frame is still needed for the award. The would like Lisa Hylton to print an award to then be framed. The Committee will pick a date to present it and take pictures of the event.

5.2. Update on Trash Compactors

There is no update on this. It was suggested to put a QR code connecting individuals with the Town's website on them.

5.3. Review of 117 Project

Chair Obrey has not heard back from the individual she contacted regarding the Route 117 project. The Committee is considering hiring someone to do the project and pricing out items such as stone and plants. They will contact Call Before You Dig beforehand. The goal is to do the project in September. There is a gas line that the Town has to take into consideration with sign placement.

5.4. Date for Council Presentation and Practice Presentation

Chair Obrey will contact the Town for a date to do a presentation to the Town Council. She would like to practice ahead of time. The Committee will review the slides prior to the presentation before the Council.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Update on Bath Area in Mystic

Mr. Sammons will take care of the bathroom area in Mystic.

The Committee presented a Motion in regards to Agenda Item 5.3
MOTION: To authorize the use up to $500 to cover the wayfinding sign on Route 117, by Sammons, seconded by Mitsko.
Vote: 4, 0, 0. Motion passes unanimously.

DRAFT

6.2. Circle Weeding on Indian Field

Chair Obrey has two friends that are cleaning up the circle on Indian Field. She will then talk to the neighbors to see if they would like to take care of it, otherwise they will consider mowing it down. In reviewing the minutes of previous Committee meetings, it seems that community members had originally cleaned up and planted flowers at the Indian Field circle; not the Committee.

MOTION: To go into an executive session, by Chair Obrey.
Vote: 4, 0, 0

The Committee entered executive session at 5:05 p.m.
The Committee returned at 5:15 p.m.

6.3. Progress on the Two Route 117 Projects

Not discussed.

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1. September 3, 2026

Not discussed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn, by McDermott, seconded by Mitsko.
Vote: 4, 0, 0. Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

DRAFT