

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order /Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gil Pastore called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Members Present:

Gil Pastore, Chairman
Teresa Gallagher
Dave Edgeworth
Ingrid Waters

3. Public Portion

No one from the public was present.

4. Approval of the October 2017 minutes.

Gil Pastore noted that he had not received a copy of the minutes. No motion was made.

5. 2018 Meeting Dates. David Edgeworth made a motion to approve the following 2018 meeting dates at 7:00 pm in City Hall Room 104 (each date is a Wednesday): Jan 24, Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, (no meeting for July or August), Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, (no meeting for December). Motion seconded by Ingrid Waters. All were in favor.

6. Update on Adopt-A-Street.

David Edgeworth asked about an adopted street that continues to have a serious litter problem. If an adopter is not picking it up, does their sign come down? Ingrid Waters agreed and noted another street she believed was not being cleaned by the adopter.

Teresa Gallagher said we need to be very careful and give these adopters the benefit of the doubt, because under the Adopt-a-Street agreement, they only need to pick up the litter four times a year. Some of these streets are so bad, the adopters could pick up the litter on Monday and by Tuesday or Wednesday there is already more litter. How do you really know they didn't clean it at some point? This is why it would be good for adopters to report their cleanups using the online form, but we've had trouble getting them to do this. More routine communication between the Committee and the adopters would help. Ron Pilkowicz called each one this year. Next year we should try to pin down an estimate from each one as to how many times they picked up and how much litter they picked up.

7. Comments by members.

- Ingrid Waters said she was happy about the reduction in advertising materials being thrown in driveways and wanted to thank John Anglace for his efforts. Members agreed.

She also asked for an update about the Committee's desire to have the City add a page to its website for volunteer opportunities. Teresa Gallagher passed her a copy of the memo sent to the Mayor and copied to John Anglace and the IT Department. There has been no response. Ingrid Waters said she would scan in the memo and email it to John Anglace and ask what he thinks.

Teresa Gallagher said the Litter Committee has reached a plateau and needs additional members, especially ones that have a positive attitude and who are willing to spend time with outreach and building relationships with prominent residents and business leaders, for example, members of the Rotary Club or Chamber of Commerce. There are too many people who will not pick up litter in their neighborhood because they think it's beneath them or it's not their job. Having our leaders and other prominent people out there setting an example would help. Dick Belden was respected for the way he picked up bottles from the side of the road.

She continued that she would like to see the Litter Committee become more like the Trails Committee, which is a working committee that hosts a couple of work parties each month. We had the Riverview Park clean-up in the fall and could repeat that each year, perhaps adding one or more locations at different times of the year, and invite prominent Shelton residents to participate.

The Trails Committee has a new member, Val Gosset, who is making it a point to contact people who have attended work parties and thanking them. That's a terrific idea and we should do more of that. It is time consuming however, and I am already handling the patches, website, certificates and Shelton Life articles, and am not able to dedicate more time on the litter program. Having additional active members would allow the Committee to make more progress.

David Edgeworth described his positive experience with Trout Unlimited and agreed with more work parties, especially held in the same place one or more times each year. Committee members discussed possible locations and thought that Shelton Avenue alongside the trail network would be good choice because litter blows in from the roadway into the open space, there is good

parking, and it is a high-profile location.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered draft minutes until approved by the Anti-Litter Committee.