

Meeting Minutes

Streetscape Master Plan Review Committee

4:00 pm, Wednesday, March 7th, 2013 -- 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members present: Melinda Herzog, Wilce Martin, Mary Bess Lawing, Jeremy Petty,
Betsy Mantak

Members absent: Natalie Kincaid, Anne Stedman, Max Sigler, Lori Wray

Staff present: Rob Powell

I. Call to order 4:00 PM. A quorum was established. Wilce Martin said that Dusty Wentz would be the alternate representative for this committee from Public Works.

II. Minutes from the January 10th, 2013 meeting were not yet available.

III. Old Business – Statesville Visit

Melinda Herzog stated that Mondays and Wednesdays would not be good days for her to participate in a trip to Statesville. No specific date was set.

IV. New Business - Downtown Planters

A discussion of the best way to provide for maintenance of plants in the downtown planters was held. Mary Bess Lawing said that she remembers City Council recommending the removal of the existing downtown planters some years ago. Jeremy Petty said that any replacement planters should be chosen with guidelines limiting the size and location. The general feeling was that the business owners should pay for their own planters but that there should be guidelines for the selection and location. This motion, made by Jeremy Petty and seconded by Wilce Martin, was approved:

Moved that the SMPRC agree with the Appearance Commission and the DNDA to work towards removal of the existing (8) concrete planters in downtown Newton and to encourage individual businesses and property owners to add planters to beautify the downtown sidewalks by (1) working with the Appearance Commission and City staff to develop guidelines for this sidewalk beautification effort and (2) preparing a recommendation for consideration by City Council to remove the existing planters and to adopt an ordinance that will allow for sidewalk beautification.

Jeremy Petty volunteered to measure the sidewalk widths around the square for use in developing guidelines for the flower pot locations.

- V. Future SMPRC meeting dates were set for Wednesdays, June 12th and September 11th, 2013 at 4:00pm, in the 2nd floor City Hall Conference Room. An additional meeting may be called depending on the actions taken at the next Appearance Commission meeting, set for Thursday March 14th. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.
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Submitted by Rob Powell, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Powell".