

## New Paltz Community Improvement Team

Year in review 2020

January 25, 2020 (my home) -11 High Pasture Rd – 9AM

Meeting of CIT members – Anita Cuniff, Melinda Minervini, Sue Stegen and John Randall (advisor for lights for downtown New Paltz)

There is an interest in bringing back the lit snowflakes which CIT did many years ago. I explained the problem of electrical outlets needing to be replaced. The outlets were removed when Central Hudson put new poles on Main Street. They were never replaced. The snowflakes were donated to local businesses.

We discussed buying 6 new snowflakes at the sale price of \$500. Reilighs is our supplier for banners and flags. They always have an after-holiday sale. We discussed sizes. There is enthusiasm for lights in the winter. However, we never pursued the idea.

February 2020 - we did not meet. Covid 19 was becoming a concern for everyone. We planned to help Jim Tinger with NP Clean Sweep. We would continue to support this event but not organize it.

March 28, 2020 - NP Community Center - 9AM

We met and continued discussions on lighting for downtown New Paltz. I collected the snowflake banners which were up from November to February. I cleaned them and kept 30 to be available in Nov 2020.

There were continued concerns with the 3 garden areas we maintain. The Welcome to New Paltz area by the Thruway is maintained by Keith Buesing. Town money pays for this area. The other two areas have been volunteer efforts. The Friendship garden is Vici Danskin. Several outside gardeners were hired in the past. It is a huge area to maintain. The rain garden by the NP Community Center is a smaller area. Volunteers maintained it for 2020.

Tammy Friedman continued the UC probation group picking up litter on town and village roads. She contacts them and suggests an area to be cleaned.

I was notified at the end of this meeting that the huge pine tree at Friendship garden had fallen over. It was removed later that week by the village DPW. The area had always been very wet. It is an area which can be seeded for lawn to reduce the weeding of this area.

April 2020 – With Covid restrictions we did not meet. NP Clean Sweep was cancelled. A small group of us met to discuss what could be done this season. We met at Craig Shankles driveway – with safe distancing and masks. Chris Marx suggested having NP High School students creating some thank you to essential workers banners. This started a process of contacting PIGLETS and PDQ for this project. Anita Cuniff, Sue Stegen and Craig Shankles became the core group to organize this project. We received private funding and used the NP Community Foundation to collect donated money. Anita Cuniff found the donors. The banners were created – Alexis Erazo was the New Paltz High School student in charge. Much of the work for this project was done via emails. The banners were hung on Main Street in July 2020. They were taken down in the fall and returned to the students who created them.

Spring/Summer 2020 – Craig Shankles and Vici continue to do volunteer work at Friendship Garden. The village of NP DPW also did a weeding effort several times. This area needs to be downsized and have a dependable maintenance schedule. This is also true for the rain garden at NP Community Center.

In September Craig and I reviewed ideas for continuing CIT. It was our thought to find private donations for large projects. It would be like the thank you banners. The NP Community Foundation would handle donations for a specific project. We did not get a project started in fall of 2020.

CIT was able to purchase new poles from our CIT budget in town funds. The snowflake banners were put up by the village DPW in November 2020.

I no longer wish to be the sole person running this committee. CIT has been successful with several projects. Covid 19 will restrict our budget. I feel new members are needed and new ideas. I am happy to advise the committee.

This is a review of our committee for the year 2020. It was a strange time indeed. We tried as best we could to stay involved.

Sue Stegen