

DRAFT - SELECTMAN'S MEETING - Date and Time TBD

PRESENTATION BY THE ARLINGTON GARDEN CLUB - JANE FOLEY, CIVIC DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Good Evening. My name is Jane Foley and I'm the Chair of the Civic Development Committee of the Arlington Garden Club.

As most of you are aware, the Arlington Garden Club's Beautification Committee has responsibility for overseeing and helping to maintain and preserve over 60 of Arlington's public spaces, including traffic islands, planters and gardens in all areas of the Town. We've been very pleased with the interest of so many businesses and citizens that volunteer to plant, water and maintain these islands and planters - they certainly enhance the Town.

We thought we'd take a few minutes of your time to create awareness from our unique perspective of what's working well and what needs improvement in terms of Beautification of Arlington.

What's Working Well?

- Town Hall Gardens
- Robbins Farm
- The Uncle Sam Park
- Reflecting Pool Area that the grant by Friends of Town Hall Gardens has been approved to refurbish
- East Arlington Islands/Trees (although we do have concern about the tidiness of these areas and on-going maintenance)
- Specific Businesses with planters and window boxes that look beautiful. Examples include: Mystic Wine and Spirits, Common Ground, Café Nero, Zhen Ren Chuan Martial Arts, Menotomy Grille, Olivios, Bistro Duet and Massage Envy and Classic Kitchen and Bath.

In Comparison to other Towns/Cities

The contiguous Towns of Winchester, Lexington, Belmont and Woburn
Other Towns such as Wakefield, Revere, Somerville, Cambridge, Medford

We could do more.

What Needs Improvement?

- Entry Islands – Gateways to Town
- Hanging plants –the new watering truck would be needed and we understand our new truck isn't capable of watering hanging plants
- Planters throughout town business areas – also would need watering
- Landscape Tidiness –
 - Town islands
 - The Municipal Parking area routinely swept and trimmed
 - Weeds/Grass/tree sprouts along bottom of trees on Mass Ave
 - Route 2 by pass Extension Island mowed or maintained

We've certainly noted through the years that even if islands or containers are newly planted and look beautiful initially, maintenance is sometimes a problem – whether watering, weeding or replacing dead plants.

We can provide you with photographs of these areas that need improvement if needed or if it would be helpful.

Our Goal for tonight was to create an awareness of what might be done to enhance the already wonderful work that is being done to beautify Arlington and that you might take our observations/recommendations into consideration as you prepare next year's budget.

Thank you for your time and your continuing interest in the Beautification of Arlington.