

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2025

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair, Helen Weingart at 3:02. Present were Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting of October 27, 2025: Leslie moved, Dave seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passes.
3. Treasurer's Report: Arboretum General funds: 0, Restricted funds: \$6,213.92
Pollinator Pathway account: Restricted funds: \$3,375.00.
 - a. Budget request for 2026-2027: Dave moved to request the same amount of \$2000.00 to be approved for the Arboretum. Leslie seconded. Motion passes.
4. Discussion of Pollinator Pathway Concept Plan
 - a. Overall review of presentation of the concept plan by the landscape architect: all agreed that the plan is exceptional in its design and content. Discussion followed about the look of the retaining stone wall around the sign leading into the Park and that it should retain a "country" aspect. Helen will ask Susan Peifer if she'd like to do this when it is time.
 - 1) Discussion included the idea of some signage that would warn the public about "accepted risk" regarding things like the presence of bees.
 - 2) Dave also reminded the Commission that if there is a change in one thing this could cause a change in others. It's its own ecosystem. Lisa, the landscape architect, can best articulate this concept.
 - b. Review of timeline for the Community Grant from the state: Dave will be meeting with Jordan Lumpkins on Dec. 8 to discuss this and Dave's estimate for in-kind work. Lisa has submitted a list of estimated costs of plantings, materials, and labor. This comes to \$123,731.44. Dave pointed out that, as the project develops, there will be places where costs can be saved. When all the data is supplied, a meeting will be called to develop fundraising plans.
 - c. Consider options for implementing the project in chunks: The grant should be submitted first before this is feasible. A tentative plan would be: the space would be graded and composted, trees planted, pathway put in and shrubs planted.
 - 1) It was decided that the Commission would host a public presentation in February to share this project with townspeople and include fundraising strategies. Lisa would be invited to make the presentation.
 - d. Projected costs of major trees: these are included on Lisa's list: \$17,000.00.
 - e. Approval from DOT to plant Love Grass vs grass that needs to be mowed along Rt. 198. Dave said that he would submit the necessary permit.

5. Additional fundraising options and their impact on the state grant. Dave will ask Jordan about any possible conflict about seeking funds elsewhere if they are also received from a state grant.
6. Time frame for public presentation of Pollinator Pathway plan: refer to 4c above. Helen will contact Lisa about possible dates in February.
7. Approval of meeting dates for 2026-2027: 1/27/26, 4/28/26 (Arbor Day celebration, 4/24/26), 8/25/26, 10/27/26. Dave moved, Leslie seconded to approve these meeting dates. Motion passes.
8. Topics for next meeting: a. Review of the Arboretum ordinance for language to include the Pollinator Pathway (should be prepared to introduce this at the February presentation).
b. Name for the Pollinator Pathway
9. Meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Ricklin, Secretary