



**CANTON TOWNSHIP  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
Minutes of the September 21, 2022 Meeting**

This meeting was held via videoconference due to Covid-19.  
The meeting was called to order at 8:03 A.M. by Chair Person, Bart Patterson.

**Present:** Steven Brock, Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Seth Kleinglass, Kurt Olson, Bart Patterson, Mark Waldbauer, Dianne Cojei

**Absent:** Laura Giove, Sandeep Narang, Andy Hargreaves, Wedad Suleiman, Richard Zuniga, Cathy Vettese

**Staff:** Amy Hamilton

**Guests:** Julea W.; Canton Resident

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

MOTION: by Dianne Cojei, supported by Mark Waldbauer, to accept the amended agenda as presented.

AYES: All present

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2022 MINUTES**

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Steve Brock, to approve the August 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

AYES: All present

**CITIZENS' NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Julea W. addressed the board concerning the Ford Road landscaping. She said she has been in communication with Amy Hamilton since the summer. She liked the Rocks but the flowers appear to be in disarray. She asked if there was a Landscaping Designer available to help with proper planning. She is concerned about the appearance of Ford Road and Michigan Avenue. She didn't feel they were being properly maintained. She asked why Michigan Avenue boulevard was not being maintained. Amy explained that the DDA only has jurisdiction over Ford Road, Michigan Avenue is maintained by Wayne County and MDOT. The DDA is funded through tax collection of Ford Road businesses and legally the tax funds have to go back into that district. Michigan Avenue is outside of the District. Amy further explained that Michigan Avenue parcels are currently maintained by private business owners and the right of way is being maintained by Wayne County and MDOT. Amy assured Julea that the Ordinance officers can be sent out to Michigan Avenue to address any problems.

Amy confirmed that there were typically plantings twice a year in the past but DDA wanted to align themselves with the Canton Township board and do more natural plantings that were friendlier to the environment and used less irrigation. The perennials grew bigger than anticipated. The rocks were a compromise. It was a trial and error before the boulevard is in place. MDOT anticipates the Ford road construction to begin in 2024. Amy pointed out that the DDA is currently trying some low maintenance things and less expensive plantings instead of spending over \$80,000 per year since the DDA will be responsible for funding all the new landscaping that goes in, including the boulevard landscaping, all new light fixtures and corner walls. The price tag will be millions of dollars.

Julea commented that she does like gardening and is willing to help out with maintenance to improve the appearance. She is concerned about the poor maintenance of Michigan Avenue. She noted that she has contacted Wayne County about the poor maintenance of the Michigan Avenue boulevard. She suggested some plantings be put on the boulevard. Julea asked if the Township had presented this idea to Wayne County. She asked if there were any groups in Canton that could help make the Michigan Avenue boulevards look nicer.

Anne Marie explained that there was a committee established to address the planting on Ford Road and they suggested to go with more indigenous plants. Julea explained that she understood the choice to select indigenous plants and the rationale to go with that decision but she pointed out that it also needs to look nice. Julea feels that Michigan Avenue is being ignored. She is personally bothered by the appearance of Michigan Avenue and willing to be on a committee or communicate with whoever she needs to, to help with the appearance. She also feels the businesses are not maintaining their properties. Anne Marie pointed out that it is an MDOT road and there is no DDA there. She also pointed out that it is private business property. Canton is trying to create a mobility corridor there and is looking forward to a dinner this week with U of M Ross Business school to bring more technology in that area. Anne Marie pointed out that Michigan Avenue is a more rural area and the ordinances are not enforced as much. Anne Marie said she can always take it up with the Canton Township Board. She assumes there may be some sort of TIF district there in the future.

Amy followed up that she does a ride along every month with Frank's Landscaping. She is scheduled for a ride along on 9/27/22 and would personally address the Ford Road maintenance with them. Julea expressed that she appreciated everyone's time and reiterated that she is willing to volunteer or do whatever needs to be done to help with the Michigan Avenue maintenance. Julea W. exited the meeting at 8:16 am.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Dianne Cojei, to accept payment of bills.

AYES: All present

**DISCUSSION: HOLIDAY DECOR – LECLERC DISPLAY P.O. APPROVAL**

Amy Hamilton said that she contacted Sean from LeCerc to see if the DDA could switch the decorations this year. He said it was too late in the season and the display has been ordered. The only thing that could be changed at this point is the garland. Previous years red garland has been used. All agreed that this year red garland would also be the best choice. Seth Kleinglass recommended looking at a new display for next year. Amy Hamilton said the DDA would need to look at it as early as April 2023.

**APPROVAL OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LECLERC P.O.**

MOTION: by Mark Waldbauer, supported by Seth Kleinglass, to approve the acceptance of the LeClerc Holiday Decor P.O.

AYES: All present

**DISCUSSION: 2022 SHOPCANTON GUIDE**

Amy Hamilton said she put the RFT out on 8/30/22 to solicit bids. They came back on 9/8/22. Amy noted we only had 3 bids which is down from previous years and that a lot of the printing companies have gone under. Lowest bid was a company in Pennsylvania but not low enough to be considered. She has spoke to Kim and she said they have used Compton Press in the past. Compton's bid was not much higher and they are local. Amy felt it is tricky working with someone out of state. Kim felt more comfortable going with Compton Press. Kim felt the price was better than anticipated.

Bart Patterson commented about an article he had read about technology resurgence concerning QR Codes. He recommended to continue to think about using them more. Amy Hamilton pointed out that the Township is using QR Codes more frequently. She gave an example of the Canton Recycling sticker that was sent by mail to the residents that included a QR Code that went right to the web page. Before the stickers went out, there was about 350 hits on the website compared to after they had been sent out. After the stickers had been mailed, there were 7,000 hits. Mark Waldbauer also gave examples of how his employer is also using them more frequently. Kurt Olson needed to exit the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE ACCEPTANCE COMPTON PRINTING THE 2022 SHOPCANTON GUIDE**

MOTION: by Diane Cojei, supported by Steve Brock, to approve the acceptance of the printing of the 2022 ShopCanton Guide

AYES: All present

**DDA COORDINATOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

- **Albaugh Masonry Update** –Albaugh started on wall maintenance later than expected due to a delay in receiving their supplies.
- **Canton Center Road Construction** – Hoping to have it opened this week but due to a contractor issue concerning the diamond grinding that levels the pavement, it may be delayed. A crew will be coming 9/26/22 or 9/27/22. I am anticipating late September early October opening. Construction went smoothly.
- **Ford Road Update** – The subcommittee met last month with MDOT and OHM to go over the landscaping and lighting plans. Those files have been uploaded so MDOT knows what the boulevard plans are. I am trying to set up a subcommittee meeting at the end of September or beginning of October to finalize MDOT questions. I met this week for a MDOT monthly check in. They have picked a Right-a-way consultant but the contract will not be awarded until 10/11/22. Once the contract is awarded, they are going to try to obtain the right-a-ways quickly. They will begin contacting property owners in November and December. It should take 18 to 24 months to secure the right-a-ways. I should know the construction schedule by Spring.
- **New DDA Clerk** –Cathy Vettese who has worked in Canton for over 14 years, is coming from the Finance department. She is on vacation right now but she will be at the next meeting. She does all the billing for the DDA so she is coming with a lot of experience. She's great! You'll love her. She will fit in seamlessly.
- **New Business** – Bj's is now open. Amy asked if anyone has been there yet. Anne-Marie commented that she heard it's really cool. Mark Waldbauer says June has gone in and says it's amazing. It's laid out similar to the Sam's Club in Ann Arbor. He asked about the Bj's gas station location. Amy said she knows they have talked to planning but they are in the beginning stages of planning. Mark said he understands that the planning of the gas station will take some time. Ann Marie commented that the Planning Commission has been approached several times about the addition of gas stations. Amy also mentioned Kroger has approached the Township about a gas station also.

Amy mentioned that Canton is trying to start a food composting pilot program. It is anticipated to start in December. Amy posted the application on line 9/20/22. As of 9/21/22, there were 82 residents interested. 400 are needed to make the pilot program a go. Participants will receive a five-gallon bucket to store food compost. There will be 3 locations in Canton where they can drop their food compost at. She mentioned that Ferndale is having success with their Food Composting Program. Amy recommended that everyone interested should check out the website. Seth asked where the website was. Amy responded that it was on the front page of the Canton website and it has been spotlighted and would send a link via email to all board members. Mark commented that it was on the Canton News Flash too. Amy mentioned more information will be coming mid-November.

Anne Marie also mentioned the Communications Survey. She recommended participation with this survey as well.

Seth asked if residents will keep the compost or bring it to a drop off locations. Amy clarified that it is to be dumped at one of the three composting locations because they want to see if the program will be viable. Anne Marie pointed out that GFL had let residents utilize some of the yard waste compost for their gardens and this would be the same instance. Seth mentioned he has a composter at his home. Bart Patterson offered a quick explanation about composting. Amy said it's an opportunity to learn about composting and keeping food out of the landfill. Anne Marie mentioned there is a presentation of the study session and that there is a possibility of putting it on line. Mark Waldbauer explained how his daughter's composting program worked. Anne Marie mentioned that not everyone has the capability to compost at home.

Amy reiterated that the purpose of the program was to extend the life of the landfill by composting the food waste. Dianne Cojei expressed her concerns about keeping that in her home and creating a possible rodent problem. Amy explained the bucket is air tight and should be emptied frequently. Anne Marie shared that her mother participates in composting and keeps a bucket in her home. Seth also shared that he also has one on his counter in his home. Dianne and Seth have concerns about keeping a five-gallon bucket in their home versus keeping it outside. Seth suggested that if it works, maybe DDA can have drop off site events like the shred events. Amy mentioned that the company that offers this service is Michigan Consulting & Environmental and they have been successful in other communities.

#### **ADDITIONAL CITIZENS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT**

Seth Kleinglass mentioned an organization that he has worked with for years called Free Bikes for Kids. They give away 1500 to 2000 bikes during the holiday. Sweet Bikes has been a collection site for a long time. They are collecting bikes on 10/1/22 at the south Canton Home Depot. He shared a link via Chat. He suggested the Township add the link to their website. The bikes are restored and given away during the holidays.

Anne Marie reminded everyone to participate in the Communications Assessment. There is a focus group today at noon and one at six tonight. The Township is trying to find out the best way to communicate with the residents. Amy offered to send links to the Communications Assessment, the Food Composting Pilot program and a link to Free Bikes for Kids in a follow up email.

Seth Kleinglass asked about which ShopCanton guide was being used. Amy explained to Seth that he was looking at the minutes from the last meeting and the guide they would be using is ShopCanton guide that reads "Shop Local You Make a Difference" minus the QR code. Mark Waldbauer asked about the printing process. He suggested that New Moon puts it together for the printer and then sends a digital copy but was asking if there was a process to approve the proof. Amy confirmed that the printer will do a mock printed guide and we will also review the proof and approve. Mark asked what process would change if we did it electronically. Mark asked if we would still get a hard copy of a proof sent to us. Amy confirmed that they would overnight a hard copy of the proof. He mentioned that he is really happy with his printer that resides in New York. He will forward this information to Amy for the next time a printer is needed. Amy said if there is a noticeable savings they would definitely be considered.

Amy requested any follow up questions be emailed to her.

#### **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.