

West Prospect streetscape is near completion

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WALDWICK- New concrete sidewalks, potted shrubs and flower baskets hanging from antique lampposts at the labor and expense of the property and business owners on West Prospect Street completes Phase I of the downtown area.

The Waldwick Community Alliance – a group of volunteer residents and business owners dedicated to revitalizing the borough – have been working together to “restore the streetscape” on West Prospect Street between Harrison and Hewson avenues.

The project came together after three years of planning and approvals from the Borough Council and area utilities, alliance vice president Doug Cowie said. The property and business owners split the \$50,000 cost of the improvements to sidewalks and curbs and the purchase of 25 flower baskets and banners. The town paid for the antique lampposts.

Although the improvements spruce up downtown, Cowie said some commercial and residential

property owners in the vicinity are concerned about the improvements’ impact on their property values and whether it would result in a tax increase. However, Cowie said, town officials said it has pledged not to reassess the area.

The next phase calls for similar streetscape improvements on the south side of Harrison Avenue to Walter Hammond Avenue and could be completed by winter, Cowie said.

According to Cowie, the minimal amount of money left over from the first phase can be applied toward improvements to Franklin Turnpike, but it is hardly enough.

“The extension of the project all depends on the budget,” Cowie said. “The appropriation of money is on the town and the commitment of the property owners is on our end.”

The alliance, along with the mayor and council members, will attend a ribbon-cutting marking completion of Phase I from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 15.

“We get to celebrate the hard work and efforts,” Cowie said. “We want to encourage and motivate business-owners to do the same.”