

Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes, April 20th, 2022

Committee members present: Blair Watson, Johna Keefe and Kyle Nuse, Anne Marie Bahr

Meeting called to order at 4:35.

Additions/Changes:

- 1) Day and time change for the committee due to changing of schedules for committee members.
- 2) One of the mini-grant recipients reached out about respectfully declining the grant. The board decided to add that \$200 back into our flower budget for this year.

Motion to approve minutes from March: Johna motions to approve, Blair seconds the motions, and the motion passes.

Board updates: Rise up Vermont grant, Anne Marie submitted an application over a month ago but has not heard back, Kyle reached out to Brian Story who said he also has not heard back. Kyle is Facebook friends with the woman who administers or approves those grants, Kyle reached out and Kyle also has yet to hear back from her with regards to the picnic table funding. The committee is hopeful that it will be approved but assuming there could be a backlog in approving applications. Front seat café was approved to come back to the village green, thus far they will be the only food vendor on the village green that is known as of right now. We will let the town know once we have confirmation of grant or not for the picnic table.

Flower donations: No one has reached out in terms of donating flowers from the front porch forum posts, Carrie reached out to a couple previous donators from last year, one person responded and said that this woman would be able to donate. Kyle received an e-mail from a friend from Upper French Hill who was growing a flat for us of colorful azina flowers that won't grow to high, and she is also going to start some nasturtiums a variety of oranges and yellows. Johna confirmed she would post a flower donation post on Johnson's front porch forum.

The Facebook page has been approved, waiting on Brian Story because he must be the one to set it up and add Kyle as an administrator of the page since it will be associated with the town of Johnson. Once the page is set up Kyle will start populating the page, this will also give the committee another venue to promote the committee's events, committee works, and requests such as the flower donations.

Updates: The mural at the village green has been taken down, the bottom got really beat up during the winter and the paint was chipping off, and the canvas was becoming warped. Michael took it down so that he could re-stretch the canvas, and compose a new mural but same theme. He will not charge anything for labor just materials, the village has \$500.00 earmarked for our committee and will request to use those funds for the new mural this year: all members in agreement.

Another mural option was contracting an NVU art student to get involved in creating a new mural. Kyle knows a student named Fin who is taking a mural course this semester and a senior, lives in Hardwick; Fin is eager to do something for us if a theme is provided. Possible locations façade of town garages possible mural done on panels and could be taken down if they needed to move them, another place could be Legion field (possibly saying welcome to Legion field). Blaire discussed possibly putting a mural on the cement blocks holding up the Powerhouse bridge due to the graffiti that is currently there, safety concerns were brought up here, Johna brought up water levels, because when water level rises we have to be careful with what is going to be washed into the water system due to the paint, there are markings along the cement blocks that measure the different water levels depending on the time of year, you could recement the areas of the graffiti but to put a mural on the blocks it should be placed above the water markings to ensure no paint enters into the waterway, and use water-resistant paint. The powerhouse bridge was taken down and now there is an orange plastic temporary fencing that is all wrapped up in the weeds and falling. The committee is hoping to address this area and finding a way to beautify this area such a picnic area that provides a scenic outlook, something like a platform that you could walk out onto, eat lunch, and watch the water flowing. There is a whole group of people that go covered bridge hoping all over New England, and our bridge is one of those spots, turning it into something more worthwhile is something to consider. Committee agreed that we would try and ask for permission to put the mural in front of the town garages. Combining the \$500.00 between Michael and Fin, and as with the World Cow follow the same model to ask for sponsorship for anyone or business interested in helping. Theme and parameters for the mural were discussed: Shared values of the Johnson community, a mural that honors our town, college/art, and environment, stitching up the world little by little with our town by maintaining sustainability, our natural resources, addressing climate change in the Johnson way. Kyle will reach out to Fin with regard to these ideas.

Schedule change for committee: Third Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. agreed by members.

Committee workday is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st at 2-5ish p.m. to weed and mulch the municipal building, the cold spring, and the elementary school area.

Kyle will be bringing up some areas to the select board that could use some beautifying such as both of the welcome to Johnson signs, the powerhouse bridge sign and guard rails that could possibly be replaced due to rotting, the graffiti on the cement blocks and the area where they removed the powerhouse bridge house.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.