

## Johnson Beautification Minutes for 8/18/22

5:00 Call Meeting to order; no additions, or changes.

5:05 Public Comment

5:10 Approve Meeting Minutes of 6/16/22; Blair moves to approve minutes and Johna seconds the motion.

5:15 Read Lauren Philie's letter of interest, **Johna moves to approve the appointment of Lauren Philie to the committee, Blair seconds and the motion passes.** This recommendation will be sent to the Select Board for final approval. Discussed wanting to find another person to add to the committee to make it a 5 person board. Johna will be making a flyer to put up around NVU which will be sent into the committee for approval once finished; this will include looking for a new member alongside volunteers to help with projects and events such as Orange Up Day.

5:20 Chair Updates:

**Mural:** Finn has sketched out and outlined, filling in all the details in the faces on it; all the materials were donated. Our initial goal for this mural was to raise \$1,500, using 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of our own committee's budget equaling \$1,000; as of today, the committee has raised \$2,825 from local companies/people. This amount does not include \$500.00 still coming from NVU, Johnson works and Jenna's promise/Tatro Family who have given verbal confirmation that they want to contribute but have yet to send in checks. Kyle will follow up. Kyle applied for a \$500 community grant with the Price Chopper foundation, their processing for this grant can take six weeks; we do meet the criteria for the grant and Kyle talked to the higher ups there and they seemed very excited about it. Approximately when all donations come in the committee will have raised \$3,500 allowing us to pay the artist \$2,500; essentially what they deserve for all the hard work that comes into designing and putting together this mural. Donor names and companies will be put on the plaque next to the mural which will cost \$100, which will be made once all donations have been received by Great Big Graphics. Public works who is the town's crew will be doing the instillation; they inspected the outside of the garage and because it is made out of corrugated metal there needs to be an infrastructure built on the inside so the mural can be screwed right in through that metal; they had to buy about \$350 worth of materials to build the inside structure; their labor is free to the committee but the materials have to be paid for from our budget. Public works spoke with Kyle letting her know September is one of their busiest months so they have asked if we could get the panels to them the first week of September which they will install that week, the mural will be 3/4ths finished going up, the artist will be finishing the mural after installation of the panels allowing the residents and tourist to see the work in progress. Committee decided that we would host a community celebration on Sunday September 18 at 2:00 p.m.; This celebration will include warm cider, cider donuts, maple cookies and possibly Cabot sharp cheese. Phase two of the mural could be funded by a Spark grant worth \$3,000 and it is for projects just like this, but this would have to be approved by the Select Board and submitted in spring of 2023. The next phase will not be as big as the first phase, requiring

less materials and plywood. Committee approved on buying \$50 worth of gratitude cards for the donators using our new logo on one side and a detail of the mural on the other.

5:30: Kyle recommended that yearly/ budget cycle the committee do one fundraising event such as the mural, one call for flower donations per year and the rest would be grants we apply for or funded through our own budget for future projects. Committee discussed possibly requesting a reserve fund by the select board.

5:40 Mini-Grants went great, all participants did their reporting which was part of the contract committee reviewed pictures of the work the mini grants supported. Next year within the mini grant clause the committee agreed to add within the contract that if you do not use the money or decide not to participate to give us advance notice so that maybe someone else could use the mini grant.

5:45: Discussed the committee's gardening areas and possibly hiring a landscaper and gardeners from May through October as the public gardening areas increase within Johnson, possibly from the ARPA Fund if approved by the Select Board. As the committee continues to beautify the town more and more, we will need more help.

5:50: Discussed collaboration with the conservation committee in terms of purposing a No Mow May to the Select Board. Also, to have the mowers just be mindful while mowing the rail trail; Possibly not to mow milkweed or pollinator flowers and just mow away the weeds from the trail to try to help the bee's and monarch butterflies.

6:00 Meeting adjourned