

Beautification Meeting Minutes from 10/21/22

Members Present: Blair Watson, Kyle Nuse, Johna Keefe (via zoom)

Absent: Lauren Phillie

Meeting was called to order at 5:10pm.

*Blair motioned and Johna seconded to approve the meeting minutes from 8/18 & 9/15. **Motion passed.***

Kyle updated the board about the flower box project at the Village Cold Spring around the sign. A teacher at Laraway School has agreed to take on the project with students. They have gone to the site and taken measurements and created some rough sketches that they will refine over the winter months. They are hoping to source some of the materials and will donate their time, but may need a financial contribution. The plan is to build it by spring of 2023. Kyle mentioned that she also just bought some large mums to replace the dead flowers that are currently in the planters.

She also asked for the committee's blessing to write a letter of support for the AARP Winter Place Making Grant the Village of Johnson is applying for. This grant helps create a more beautiful and inclusive winter place on Legion Field. Last year we supported this effort and had a really great collaboration with artists, including mural artist Finn Watsula.

*Johna motioned and Blair seconded to authorize Kyle Nuse to write a letter of support for the AARP Winter Place Making Grant on behalf of the Beautification Committee. **Motion passed.***

Kyle updated that she has emailed Daniel Franklin, the new E.D. at Jenna's Promise to invite him to one of their meetings. He has yet to respond so she will circle back. The committee discussed the importance and desire to collaborate with property owners/stakeholders/community members in the Village to start a bigger discussion about downtown aesthetics and helping to create a cohesive and strategic beautification plan is sustainable and bolster Johnson pride.

Mission Statement. The committee workshopped a mission statement and agreed to sent the following to the Select Board for approval:

The mission of the Johnson Beautification Committee is to work collaboratively to enhance the aesthetic quality of Johnson and promote public pride with flowers, art, and inclusive philanthropic opportunities.

The committee talked at length about winter beautification ideas. Everyone liked the idea of pursuing putting solar powered outdoor, colored Edison style lights on the Railroad Street Bridge to make it a brighter, more joyful place to look at and pass through in the dark winter

months. Kyle mentioned that she talked to her neighbors who own a home right on that corner and they were supportive of the idea. The committee discussed how they could get hung and it made the most sense to first talk to Jason Whitehill and Public Works since it is a town bridge, but to also try to get some buy-in with the Village Crew since they have the lift and the electrical knowledge. Kyle mentioned that we do have \$500 unused dollars in the Village's yearly budget that we could perhaps use to pay the village for their time and lift use. The committee thought that would be a good use of those funds. Blair also suggested that maybe Jenna's Promise would be interested in getting onboard with these ideas since it will certainly benefit their small business and their patrons that cross the bridge every day to get to Promising Goods. Kyle said she agreed and will mention it to Daniel when she finally gets a hold of him. The committee also discussed hanging brightly colored "prayer flags" with the lights so there is color during the day-sort of like what they did at the ice rink last year. Everyone thought that was really nice and to add that to the discussion with the road crews. It was agreed Kyle would get Brian Story's temperature on the topics first before reaching out to the crews and then go from there.

In addition to lights and flags, we agreed that we should put boughs and bows in and on the Power House Bridge for the holiday months.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.