

Jan. 19th, 2023 Beatification Committee Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kyle Nuse, Lauren Philie, Johna Keefe (via phone)

Public Guests: Finn Watsula, Fatima (?)

Kyle called the meeting to order at 5pm.

Lauren made a motion to approve the November 17th, 2022 minutes, Kyle seconded and the motion passed.

Kyle updated the committee about the gardener position they proposed to go on the town meeting warning, which the Select Board did not support at their January 16th meeting. Committee members were upset to hear this and felt it was important that we continue to tell the Select Board that a creative solution needs to be found. The committee agreed that we could not keep up with the flower beds but feel we can keep up with flower boxes on the bridges.

Kyle updated the committee that the Select Board did approve us to go forth with the SPARK grant (\$5000) to pay for the next phase of Town Garage Murals. Should these funds be granted, they will pay for Finn's time. The materials we would try and get donated again, and Public Works will provide installation help. Diane and Don Blais will be donated their barn space for Finn to paint in again. The grant is due March 7th, and the committee agreed to each take a section to work on between meetings.

Finn Watsula told the committee they are excited to work with us again on phase 2 of the Town Garage Mural Series. We discussed with them different ideas of what the "Scenes of Johnson" locations could be that the "Humans" will be interacting and recreating in. We all agreed that having landmarks that rail-trail folks can bike/walk/ride makes the most sense and drives people to the village to spend time and money. The committee with Finn came up with a robust list that Lauren said she would put into a community survey to circulate for public feedback and buy-in. The places include Main Street, the Arboretum, Legion Feild (TNL, Bread Oven, Skating Rink), Johnson Elementary, and Beard Park/Power House Bridge. Finn thinks they could include multiple scenes into one mural to capture all the diverse things/places/spaces our downtown offers. We agreed to get public feedback and then go from there. Finn and the committee will be in touch.

Fatima expressed an interest in joining the Beautification Committee. Kyle said she would be in touch with details.

6pm: Meeting adjourned.