

2/16/23 Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Blair Watson, Lauren Philie, Johna Keefe, Kyle Nuse

Blair moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 19th, 2023, Laruen seconded and the motion passed.

Laruen updated the committee of the mural survey results to date. 75 people participated, and the majority said they wanted Legion Feild, Johnson Elementary School, Beard Park and the Power House Bridge to be represented on the "Scenes of Johnson Murals. Main Street and the Arboretum got the fewest votes. She said based on this information she will fill in her sections of the grants.

Kyle said that she got a few emails from residents that were upset we are hiring Finn to do the art. They expressed not appreciating their aesthetic. The board discussed how to respond and Kyle said she would do that as soon as she could.

Blair finished their portion of the grant and Kyle did too. The committee discussed applying for the Green Mountain Grant if they don't get the Spark Grant as a Plan B, and/or fundraising for it.

Kyle passed out drafts of the micro-grant applications they used last year for the committee to review. She mentioned that last year a grant was awarded but was not used and the person did not let the committee know so the money was lost because they entered a new budget cycle and their budget does not get rolled over year to year. She suggested adding a line in on the application that asks folx to let the committee know by a certain date if they are unable to use the grant so that the committee has time to either reallocate or spend the funds. The committee agreed that was a good idea.

They also discussed how to expand the grant language to town properties that have high visibility vs just downtown properties. After much discussion the committee landed on using this language:

Open to all private or public entities and individuals located in Johnson, Vermont. Priority is given to properties that are easily visible from high-traffic roads that are walked, biked, and driven. For example, Main Street, Pearl Street, Railroad Street, School Street, 100C, College Road, Clay Hill, etc.

The committee looked at the calendar and decided applications must be filled out and submitted to the Beautification Committee by **5pm on March 15th**. Awardees will be notified by April 1st. Laruen and Kyle said they would post on FPF to get the word out. Kyle said she would also ask Jasmine if she would mention it in the Community Column. She would also ask Brian to put it on the Town of Johnson's facebook page.

The committee talked about spring flowers and soliciting donations, which is the next order of business. They decided to start asking for these donations in April when people typically start sprouting seeds inside. The committee committed to continuing the flower boxes on the RR Street Bridge as well as the Power House Bridge. They feel committed to maintaining the Cold Spring and the Village Green this summer but will not put time or energy into the Municipal Building flower beds or the elementary school flower garden.

The Committee moved their monthly meetings to the third Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:30pm starting in March.

6:00pm: Meeting adjourned