

# Beautification Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

Present: Blake Parker (P) Adrienne Parker (P) Kyle Nuse (P)  
Johna Keefe (P) Lauren Phille (A)

## **Call the meeting to order. Changes/Additions?**

No additions

## **Public comment**

## **Approve the meeting minutes of 9/11/24**

*Blake moved to approve the meeting minutes from 9/11/24. Kyle second the motion and the motion passed.*

## **Budget Update**

Adrienne provided a budget update indicating a total of \$2,242.35 available. This does not include the \$500 from the Village. Adrienne will add this in before the next meeting.

A grant application has been submitted to help fund decorations and other expenses for the jubilee.

Kyle mentioned that even without grant approval, the jubilee will proceed with minimal resources if necessary.

There is a discussion about making larger purchases with Village funds for the Village.

Adrienne noted that they went over budget for Fall decorations because she found matching planters for more planters along Main Street that can be used in every season.

Kyle emphasized the importance of spending budgeted money in a timely manner to avoid rollover issues. There is a need for a reserve fund to manage unspent budget effectively. The group discussed the potential benefits of having a reserve fund for future projects.

*Adrienne made a motion to allow Adrienne to draft language for establishing reserve funds. Kyle seconded the motion and the motion passed.*

## **Project Prioritization List and grant list for Randall**

Adrienne introduced a greenhouse/hoop house project to be added to the prioritization list. This would save the Beautification Committee money on plants and would increase production. Adrienne noted a hoop house is considered more cost-effective than a traditional greenhouse for production. The committee discussed potential locations for the hoop house.

*Blake moved to allow Adrienne and Kyle to continue working on grant list for Randall and to send to him. Blank seconds the motion and the motion passed.*

### **2025 Donations**

Kyle mentioned that donations could be accepted through the town for specific projects. Johna suggested to reach out to local businesses for donations for future beautification projects.

Adrienne mentioned that Gene from the Woolen Mills expressed interest in funding hanging baskets along Main Street. The group plans to move forward with the hanging baskets project in January. They discussed reaching out to Gene when they have more information on the project. There are concerns about ensuring proper watering and maintenance of the baskets.

The committee discussed past fundraising experiences and how donations were managed.

There was consideration of how to recognize donors without privatizing community projects.

Kyle recalled previous fundraising efforts for World Cow where corporate sponsorships were used.

*Adrienne makes a motion to create a reserve fund for town meeting day. Johna seconds the motion and the motion passed.*

### **Storage space / Bulk Soil**

Adrienne gave update that she is waiting for Tom to find a firm location. He proposed the attic of the Food Shelf.

Kyle mentioned that this might not be a great spot since we will have messy heavy items. Adrienne said she will ask Tom if there are any other options.

Blake suggested we could use the Hoop House area in the future.

### **Bulb Planting Planning at Food Shelf, Historical Society Building, Trailhead**

The group decided to meet on November 3rd at the Cold Spring to plant bulbs.

## **Trailhead Art Projects**

### **Printed Set on Welcome Center side**

Discussion centered around replacing outdated artwork at the welcome center with new illustrations or portraits. There was an idea to involve local artists and students in creating new artwork for community spaces. Concerns were raised about potential backlash regarding diversity in art representation. The group considered setting themes for art submissions to encourage community participation. Adrienne will ask to be put on Selectboard agenda in December to see if we can replace the current photo portraits.

### **Sculpture**

The group discussed potential sculptures and public art installations in town.

They considered reaching out to artists for site-specific works rather than purchasing sculptures outright.

There was interest in creating permanent sculptures at key locations like the trailhead. Adrienne expressed interest in creating permanent sculptures at key locations like the trailhead. For example a stone sculpture from an artist at Earth Works. Kyle said she will reach out to artist and to Jackie Cassino at VTRANS to see if this would be allowed. The possibility of collaborating with local art schools for public art projects was also mentioned

### **Rain Garden Presentation - Johna**

Johna gave presentation over Rain Gardens.

The committee considered incorporating rain gardens into downtown reconfiguration plans.

Grants could be available for homeowners in flood-prone areas to install rain gardens. Costs for installing rain gardens can vary significantly based on site conditions and design choices.

5 to \$40 per square foot is a general estimate for rain garden installation costs. 40 per square foot may increase if mature plants are used instead of seeds or seedlings.

The size and depth of a rain garden will also impact overall costs due to labor requirements.

Consulting professionals is recommended to determine optimal locations and designs. Routine inspection and maintenance are required for effective functioning of rain gardens.

A joint meeting with the conservation commission is suggested to discuss further steps. Johna will provide language for Randall grant list.

### **Halloween Party Update**

The Halloween party is scheduled for the 27th after the haunted house at Legion Field. The haunted house will take place from 12 to 2 PM, followed by a party at the pizza oven until 4 PM.

There are plans for witches to dress up and ride bikes to promote the Rail Trail.

### **Johnson Jubilee Discussion**

Kyle gave update on Jubilee planning.

The group discussed ideas on how Beautification Committee could help.

Discussion on helping add lights to the Village Green. Kyle suggested using solar or battery-powered lanterns that can be hung in trees. She will send examples.

Adrienne proposed creating a plywood cut-out sign for photo opportunities at the jubilee.

There was a proposal to use directional signs to guide visitors effectively during events by repurposing cement snowmen decorations.

### **MOU for Town and Village**

Adrienne indicated that the MOU could include yearly plans for projects.

The group decided to come back to the Selectboard and Trustees in March to get the MOU approved.

### **Adjourn**

*Adrienne moved to end the meeting. Johna seconded and the motion passed at 8:38*