

Beautification Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

Present: Blake Parker (P) Adrienne Parker (P) Kyle Nuse (P)
Johna Keefe (P) Lauren Phille (P)
Guests: Peter Danforth and Jo Marsan

Summary

The meeting covered several key updates and decisions. The budget remains at \$1,455.68. Michael Stanley's sculpture installation at Old Mill Park is pending weather conditions. The village trustees approved the sculpture installation and grant application, requiring an insurance waiver. The committee discussed the need for approval to use village funds for small purchases. They also approved a \$248 water sprayer. The reserve fund petition received all necessary signatures. Peter Danforth from Lamoille County Conservation District discussed rain garden projects and potential funding sources. The committee agreed to explore a payment plan for Michael Stanley's sculptures and to create a donation page for hanging planters.

Outline

Chair Updates and Public Comments

Adrienne calls the meeting to order and provides updates on the budget, which remains at \$1,455.68.

Adrienne mentions the Trailhead sculpture update, noting that Michael Stanley is waiting for the snow to melt before installing the flower at Old Mill Park.

Adrienne and Michael attended a village trustee meeting on January 25, where they showed sketches and received approval for the sculpture installation and grant application. Michael was asked to sign an insurance waiver and write a letter of interest.

Adrienne discusses the approval for the lamp post hanging planters and the need for approval to use village funds for small purchases.

Grant Approval and Funding Discussion

Adrienne confirms that the village trustees approved the purchase of a \$248 water sprayer.

Adrienne mentions the reserve fund petition, which received all necessary signatures and will be on the town meeting day warning for approval.

Adrienne adds an agenda item about posting meeting updates on the front porch forum to attract new members and expand the committee.

Kyle commends Adrienne for her hard work in gathering signatures for the reserve fund petition.

Introduction of Peter Danforth and Rain Garden Projects

Adrienne introduces Peter Danforth from Lamoille County Conservation District, who discusses their work in stormwater management, lake restoration, wildlife habitat expansion, and farm support.

Peter mentions the local Memorial branch of the pollinator pathways group and their meetings held every third Monday of the month.

Peter discusses the challenges of securing funding for stormwater projects and the potential for bundling smaller projects to qualify for Clean Water funds.

Adrienne and Peter discuss the possibility of collaborating on rain garden projects and the need for willing landowners and public areas for these projects.

Survey and Education for Rain Garden Projects

Peter suggests creating a survey to identify willing landowners and potential rain garden sites.

Adrienne and Peter discuss the importance of educating the public about rain gardens and the potential for collaboration with the pollinator pathways group.

Peter offers to provide an example of a survey and to reach out to Emily Porter Goff for educational outreach on rain gardens and watersheds.

Adrienne and Peter discuss the need for a grant writer to assist with funding for rain garden projects.

Discussion on Main Street Pedestals and Payment for Sculptures

Kyle and Adrienne discuss the payment and contract details for Michael Stanley's sculptures for the Main Street pedestals.

Adrienne suggests that Michael apply for a grant to cover part of the cost, and Kyle emphasizes the need for a clear payment plan.

Jo suggests creating a budget and allocating funds over multiple years to cover the cost of the sculptures.

Kyle and Adrienne agree to set up a meeting with Michael to discuss the payment details and ensure transparency.

Lamp Post Hanging Planters and Fundraising

Adrienne mentions the need to double-check the language of the village trustee's approval for the lamp post hanging planters.

Adrienne and Kyle discuss the possibility of creating a donation page for businesses to sponsor the planters.

Jo suggests putting logos on the planters as a way to thank sponsors.

Kyle and Adrienne agree to price out the planters and explore different fundraising options, including a GoFundMe-like page.

Trailhead Artwork Contest and Theme Selection

Adrienne and Blake present a Google submission sheet for the Trailhead artwork contest.

Kyle suggests applying for a grant from the Arts Council and discusses the timeline for submissions and project completion.

The group discusses the themes for the artwork, including seasonal Vermont, famous Vermont figures, train writers through time, animal passengers, future of the rail trail, intergalactic train riders, and passengers from across the universe.

The group votes on the theme of intergalactic train riders for the artwork.

Minute Taker and Bike Sculpture Project

Adrienne discusses the need for a new minute taker and considers using an AI program like Otter AI.

Kyle moves to allocate up to \$150 for AI technology to take minutes, and the group agrees.

The group discusses the bike sculpture project, including the idea of using old bikes and having a community paint session.

Johna offers to help with the bike sculpture project and suggests involving the skate park committee.

Greenhouse Collaboration and Food Resiliency Task Force

Adrienne discusses the idea of collaborating with the food resiliency task force to create a greenhouse next to the elementary school.

The group considers the logistics of the greenhouse project, including the location and potential partnership with the school.

Johna offers to help identify a suitable location and discuss the project with the campus.

The group agrees to explore the greenhouse project further and consider it as a potential collaboration with the food resiliency task force.

Action Items

- Send the Trailhead artwork contest submission form to the committee for feedback.
- Reach out to the Lamoille County Conservation District to obtain an example survey for landowners and inquire about educational outreach opportunities.
- Coordinate with the Conservation Commission to discuss potential rain garden projects and collaboration.
- Investigate funding options, including grants and local business sponsorships, for the lamp post hanging planters project.
- Explore potential locations and logistics for the bike sculpture project, including collaborating with the skate park committee.
- Follow up with the Reimagine Johnson Food Resiliency Task Force to discuss the greenhouse project proposal near the elementary school.