

Beautification Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Present: Adrienne Parker - Chair (P) Kyle Nuse - Vice Chair (P)
Blake Parker (P) Johna Keefe (A) Lauren Phille (P) Jo Marsan (P)

Summary

The Beautification Committee meeting covered several key points. The committee approved the minutes from previous meetings and discussed the AI minute taker's performance. The budget includes \$1,355.69, with a reserve fund for future projects. A joint meeting with the Conservation Commission about rain gardens is proposed. The committee is seeking funding for \$5,000 worth of sculptures by Michael Stanley, with potential grants from the Vermont Arts Council and the Rail Trail Committee. They also discussed the need for hanging planters, with a budget of \$540 for 12 baskets. Mini-grants will be available, with a deadline of April 8. The next meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 6 PM.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Chair Updates

Adrienne calls the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and asks for any additions or adjustments.

Lauren motions to approve the meeting minutes from February 18 and February 25, which is seconded and approved.

Adrienne updates on the AI minute taker, asking members to review the minutes for accuracy.

Adrienne mentions Rosemary created an account for the committee, and she can send the username and password.

Budget and Reserve Fund Update

Adrienne discusses the town meeting day approval for the reserve fund.

Kyle confirms there are two separate accounts: one for regular expenses and one for the reserve fund.

The goal is to spend down the regular account and use the reserve fund for major projects.

Adrienne provides an update on the recent purchase of the Otter AI program, which leaves the budget at \$1355.69.

Conservation Commission Joint Meeting and Main Street Statue Pedestals

Adrienne updates on a potential joint meeting with the Conservation Commission about rain gardens and pollinator gardens.

Adrienne shares her communication with Erik Bailey about a letter of interest and insurance waiver for Michael Stanley's sculptures.

"February 12, I emailed Erik to ask for the the letter of interest for the grant and the insurance waiver for Michael Stanley to sign. So I asked that on February 12, and then I didn't hear back from him, so I sent a follow up email on March 10, and he said, 'Hi, I'll have, I'll draft a letter of

interest promptly. It was my understanding that the waiver discussed was from Michael holding the village harmless for any damage done to his work on village property.' So then I replied, 'Thank you for sending the letter of interest. This is what the motion said in the last village minutes. Will moved and Darryl second to accept the four sculptures presented by Michael Stanley to go on four pedestals in the village for two years. Send a letter of support to Vermont Arts Council art project grant application and to approve the Beautification Committee applying for the grant with the understanding that Michael Stanley will sign a liability waiver for the sculptures while they are up. I said it doesn't specify, but I think the village should draft the liability waiver. Since the village is requesting the waiver, they should ensure it aligns with their legal and insurance requirements. This way, they can clearly define the scope of liability, the duration of the agreement and any conditions the artist must meet. And I said, thanks again for your help on this. And he said, 'Good point. I'll look into it with our insurer.' And he sent the letter, but I haven't heard from him about the waiver yet, so I said, 'Thank you for the letter. Send over the waiver when you get a chance.'"

The village has approved the sculptures, and a letter of interest has been drafted, but the waiver is still pending.

Adrienne and Kyle need to meet with Michael Stanley to discuss funding options, including potential grants and the rail trail committee.

Funding for Sculptures and Grant Applications

Kyle mentions Michael Stanley is applying for a Vermont Arts Council creation grant, with a deadline of April 8.

The rail trail committee has allocated \$5,000 towards public art, which could help fund the sculptures.

The Select Board will need to approve any spending from the rail trail committee's funds.

Adrienne and Kyle discuss the need for a grant or funding to cover the \$5,000 cost of the sculptures.

Reimagine Food Resiliency Task Force and Rain Garden Update

Adrienne updates on her meeting with the Reimagine Food Resiliency Task Force, where they discussed a greenhouse project.

The task force received survey results indicating a strong interest in a farmers market.

Adrienne requested a map from the Lamoille County Planning Commission for the best locations for rain gardens.

Adrienne plans to recommend that all committees and task forces present their projects to find overlaps and prioritize them.

MOU and Select Board Report

Adrienne proposes that Kyle and she work on the MOU with the Select Board.

The committee agrees to give Kyle and Adrienne authority to review and possibly amend the MOU.

Adrienne mentions the need to report to the Village on the committee's activities and the MOU.

The committee discusses the importance of consistently requesting more town support for beautification projects.

Spring Planting Donations and Fundraising Ideas

Adrienne shares an email from Amy Schultz, who won't be donating plants this year but is open to a cash donation.

The committee prefers a cash donation to have more control over plant selection.

Adrienne suggests reaching out to local nurseries for donations or discounts on plants.

The committee discusses the possibility of a fundraiser through Holland Farms or local nurseries.

Lamp Post Hanging Planters and Mini Grants

Adrienne updates on the availability of lamp post hanging planters and the need for brackets.

The committee discusses the cost and quality of different hanging planter options.

Lauren mentions the possibility of reaching out to Gardener's Supply for donations or discounts.

Lauren has created a Google Doc application for mini grants and plans to post it on Front Porch Forum and Facebook.

Trailhead Call to Artists and Bike Sculpture Project

Kyle updates on the Trailhead Call to Artists, mentioning the need to secure grant funding.

The committee discusses the possibility of applying for the Animated Infrastructure Grant and the Arts Project Grant.

Kyle shares a list of potential locations for bike sculptures, including the cold spring, municipal building, and trailhead.

The committee plans to task other committees to come up with themes for the bike sculptures.

Meeting Schedule and Adjournment

Adrienne proposes moving the meeting to the first Tuesday of the month to avoid conflicts with other committee meetings.

(please note after the meeting the committee decided on meeting the first Thursday of the month to avoid town and village meeting day)

The committee agrees to the new meeting schedule and time.

Adrienne moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM, which is seconded and approved.