

**Town of Londonderry
Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023**

Present: Committee members Pam Abraham, Barbara Wells, Cheryl Edwards, Marlene Boyaner

On the phone: Bonny Johnson, Gale Kuhlberg **Absent:** Martha Dale

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Current year budget \$3500.

- The town treasurer advised \$329.75 has been spent and will let us know what that charge was for. The reimbursement to Barb Wells for the June flower expense of \$137.20 is still outstanding. The remaining amount in the budget is \$3033.05. The mums bill (still to be invoiced) will be \$600.

Town gardens, bridge boxes, barrels and watering updates:

- The flower boxes were removed by Helen Hamman and from Rotary, by Peter Isakson and Tom Widger. Thank you. The empty flower box liners were returned to Glebe. The boxes are in the town garage. Some of them need repairs, which Tom kindly said he would take care of next spring.
- Helen suggested we have dedicated waterers for the Yin Yang boxes and increase the number of boxes to 8-10 as the bridge span is long. The committee decided to stay with the current number of boxes (about 4) for now and Marlene and Cheryl committed to keeping them watered and looked after. We will then see how they do next year to decide if we continue with boxes there. Glebe also said they will plant colorful, drought tolerant plants in those boxes.
- The flower boxes on the Williams bridge were beautiful thank to the dedicated watering by the Tobins. Bonny will send them a thank you note to express our appreciation.
- Bonny met with Lydia to discuss flowers for next year and agreed on going for a lot more color and more consistency in the plants for greater continuity and impact in town. Lydia suggested running a planting session with more direction from her so we have more consistent results in the plantings – which we support. We also need to deadhead more and choose more plants that don't need deadheading.
- The mums in the triangle and Browns Garden have been planted and look good. The mums at the town office were placed, not planted because the installed plants still look good.

The committee set the date of November 8, 10:30 am to meet at the Town Office garden, cut back that garden and then remove the mums from the other gardens.

Cheryl suggested that next year we consider where the mums will be best placed based on how the gardens are doing. As an example, the barrel by the gas station is doing so well, we didn't plant mums there. We also discussed tracking which plants did very well this year (e.g., coleus) and which didn't.

- There were no watering signups in September, but we had a good amount of rain. Barb and a small group will meet with Mark Wright to discuss different approaches for watering.

- Pam advised that there are watering spigots at the gas station, behind Jakes and the Second Congregational Church which can make refilling containers easier. We used a shopping cart to transport water when we planted the mums in the triangle which made it much easier and faster. And with thanks to the town, Cheryl put pilons around when we were planting for caution. We should continue to do that for future plantings in the triangle.
- The group also recommended we send a thank you note to Mark Wright for all his support with the barrels and plants in town. Bonny to follow up.
- The group had a lot of positive feedback on the Burton Historical Marker event. The shroud that Gale created for revealing the marker will be used by the Vermont Preservation Trust for other markers around the state. The group agreed plantings around the newly installed Burton Historical marker would be a good idea and suggestions were discussed.
- We've had lots of good feedback on the plantings at Aiken's corner. We discussed holiday decorations at the Aiken's corner and the possibility of running electrical line from the pole nearby.

Town Banners: We had more discussion about the design for the banners and agreed a subgroup of Pam, Bonny, and Martha (as available) and Cheryl meet to pull together a recommendation for design so we can give more direction to Rick.

New business: Cheryl suggested Williams Park needs cleaning up (weed maintenance) and Barb said if the Japanese knotweed can be cleaned out and kept cleaned out, it would stop growing there. Marlene will ask Kelly Pajala (Parks Board Chair) to meet with Cheryl and Marlene to discuss these suggestions.

Next Beautification Committee meeting: We did not schedule a meeting per se, but will meet at the Town Office gardens Nov 8, 10:30 am for garden and mum cleanup.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Boyaner