

Town of Londonderry
Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015

Amended and Approved 6.29.2015

Present: Berthe Cowles, Paul Gordon, Helen Hamman, Robert Cowles, Kevin Beattie, Susan Wyman, Martha Dale

Absent: Carol Ann Jopling

Guest: Barbara Wells

The meeting was called to order by Berthe Cowles at 3:30pm. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Mrs. Cowles noted that at the Town Meeting in March the Beautification Committee was established and funds to support its work allocated in the town budget. Prior to this formal action, efforts to beautify the town were conducted by volunteers who had come together for “the mountain valley challenge” twenty years ago. Great additions to the town were borne out of the initiative, such as the Farmers’ Market, the founding of the Mountain Valley Trail Association, daffodil and lupine plantings around town, bridge flower boxes and the town newsletter. With the retirement of Bob Cowles as the bridge flower box program volunteer manager, it seemed time to have the town take on this and other beautification projects. Therefore, the town allocated at its March meeting \$3,000 to cover the costs of project expenses for the year and the creation of a committee to oversee the following projects: town triangle plantings, flags, bridge flower boxes, and town entrance signs.

Town triangle plantings: Located at the corner of Rtes. 11 and 100 across from Clark’s IGA, the triangle planting area will be managed by Glebe Mountain Gardens for the season. Lilies and tulips have been planted and are blooming already; more bulbs may need to be added in the fall. Volunteers from the Green Mountain Gardeners will weed the bed occasionally. Helen Hannon agreed to oversee this project for the committee.

Flags: Susan Wyman has been coordinating the placement of American flags along Rt 11 in Londonderry for a number of years. She noted that with help from Paul Gordon and the team at the Londonderry Hardware Store, a new bracket and pole system has been purchased for the 26 flags that will be installed shortly on telephone poles in town, extending from bridge to bridge on Rt 11 and in front of Clark’s IGA. The flags will be in place from Memorial Day through Labor Day. A number of the new flags have been donated by individuals who will be individually thanked by the committee. Committee members commended the staff at the Londonderry Hardware Store and Joel Kuhlberg and the Rotary for their help and extended praise for Susan’s work on the flag project in the past and this year as well.

Bridge Boxes: The bridge flower box project was described by Berthe – with the number of boxes slated for installation this year at 36. Glebe Mountain Gardens has been contracted to fill

the boxes with soil and plants this year. The Rotary members will put them on the bridges before July 4th weekend. A group of volunteers under Berthe's direction are lined up to water the boxes and dead-head the plants this summer. Occasionally the boxes will need repairs - it is hoped that the members of the Londonderry Rotary might be called on to assist with minor repairs. The Rotary has agreed to remove the boxes in the autumn; the boxes will be brought to a town building for storage over the winter. Also in the fall, bids will need to be secured from three vendors for the 2016 box plantings.

Village entrance signs: The slate-blue large hanging signs on Rtes. 11 and Rt 100 at the entrance to the villages of Londonderry and S. Londonderry were erected 20 years ago. Bob Cowles has maintained the signs since then, by occasionally repairing the wood frames and applying clear sealant. Managing the growth of plants in the vicinity of the signs so that they are visible by motorists is also required. Martha Dale agreed to help manage the upkeep of the signs, under the direction of Bob Cowles this year.

The committee discussed the Vermont Information sign adjacent to the Chamber of Commerce/Rotary kiosk in the Clark's IGA parking area. Members noted that the information is outdated and the sign needs landscaping around it to make it more appealing. Another suggestion regarding signage focused on the possibility of a small sign in the triangle at Rtes. 11 and 100 noting who maintains the plantings and the oversight by the town Beautification Committee. There was no decision reached on either of these signage issues.

Committee officers: For the position of committee chairperson, Berthe Cowles was nominated and was unanimously approved by the members. For the position of secretary, Martha Dale was nominated and unanimously approved by the members. For the position of treasurer, Helen Hamman was nominated and was unanimously approved by the members.

Other business: Barbara Wells provided an update on the work to place flower pots around town. The Rotary has partnered on the project and with their assistance, enough money was raised to purchase 31 planters and pay for the soil and plants. The planters will be filled on the morning of June 4th at Rugg Valley Landscaping, on Haven Hill Rd. in S. Londonderry. Volunteers are invited to join the planting effort that morning. Rotary members have volunteered to bring the planters to the town garage for safe keeping over the winter. Barbara's efforts were applauded – providing a boost to the other beautification efforts around town.

The next meeting of the committee will be June 23rd at 3:30pm at the Twitchell Building in S. Londonderry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dale

