

Town of Londonderry
Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016

Present: Committee members Berthe Cowles, Paul Gordon, John and Caroline Jopling, Helen Hamman and Martha Dale. Joel Kuhlberg was excused.

The minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting were approved by the members.

Treasurer's Report Helen reported that all but \$786.20 of the budgeted amount had been spent thus far. Bids have been requested for triangle landscape work in the spring and fall, 2017. Helen was given permission by the committee members to go with the lowest bidder, pending budget approval by the Select board. Helen will prepare a proposed 2017 budget by November to submit to the Board of Selectmen.

The triangle Helen, John and Caroline planted kale and mums at the triangle – extending the beautiful landscaping far into the fall.

Flags The flags are being taken down this week.

Bridge flower boxes Bob Cowles reported that bridge boxes were being taken down today and these will be stored for the winter. Committee members extended a hearty thanks to Skip Raymond, Mike Malekoff and the Rotary for their help with the heavy lifting. The Rotary will be removing the planter barrels – another great addition to the beauty of the town.

One bid has been received for the bridge box plantings next year. This bid has been approved, pending budget approval by the Select board.

Town entrance signs With Paul's guidance, a color has been chosen and tested for the repainted signs. One is now ready for the lettering and one is undergoing repair work to seal against water damage. These two repainted and repaired signs should be up by next week.

The painted wall Paul is asking for figures for next year's wall touch-up painting so that it can be added to the committee budget. He estimates that it will come in around \$500.

Committee budget Helen will prepare next year's budget for submission to the Town Clerk in November. The committee agreed to keep the total request at this year's amount of \$3,000. The idea of a contractor for bridge box and barrel watering will be shelved – the commitment of community volunteers has made this a successful no-cost endeavor. Likewise, the idea of having stone planters under each of the entrance signs was shelved for another year.

Lupine planting Caroline and John have spread the lupine seed on the hillside opposite Clark's IGA. It will be important that the Committee notify the town road crew to not mow either spot until late in the season.

Resolution Berthe and Bob Cowles submitted their resignation from the Beautification Committee given their pending move to South Carolina. It was resolved by the committee members that:

“Berthe and Bob Cowles be recognized and thanked for their tireless work over 19 years to energize community spirit and volunteerism to improve the attractiveness of our villages. Their handiwork to create and yearly tend to the bridge boxes that have adorned the three bridges in our community has meant that every visitor to our villages is greeted with stunning, vibrant colors and shown how welcoming our community is. The legions of volunteers that have worked under Berthe’s direction have likewise been smitten by pride in their contributions to the beauty of Londonderry and S. Londonderry – an exponential multitude of involved citizens. Berthe and Bob lobbied the town Select board to recognize the value of beautification efforts and create a Beautification Committee with a budget to support its work. The two have institutionalized the workings of these many yearly endeavors and are handing over to successor Beautification Committee members a finely tuned operation. They will be sorely missed but with every flower around town we will be reminded of their dedication and work.”

Berthe and Bob will be invited for a luncheon with the committee next spring to fete their accomplishments.

New officers for 2017 John and Helen were nominated as new co-chairs for the 2017 season. Helen will also continue as Treasurer. Martha will continue as Secretary. The committee voted unanimously in favor of these new officers. The committee agreed that we should be looking for new members for our group.

Other business It was suggested that the new Zoning Administrator for the town be invited to a meeting next year to meet with the committee members and understand his work.

The next regular meeting of the Beautification Committee will be **Tuesday, May 9th at 10am** at the Town Office Building. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Dale