

**Town of St. Johnsbury
Beautification Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

**February 23, 2026 at 10:30am
St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 3rd Floor**

Committee Members Present: Jim & Lorrie Brown, Gena Glidden, Gillian Sewake, Vanessa Allen, Phoenix Anise, Heather Alger

Others Attending: Kim & Matt Keafer from Kingdom Gardens

1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 10:33am
2. Agenda Changes: None.
3. Discussion of changes with flowers, watering, with Kingdom Gardens:

Kim and Matt presented a watering system—Earthplanter—that comes highly recommended by other municipal beautification contractors. These would be for the hanging baskets on Eastern Ave and at the Welcome Center. These would remove the need for daily watering, reducing it to every 3 days, which is the largest expense related to Kingdom Gardens' contract.

Extensive discussion about the material of the basket, and other communities' experiences with them. The product has a lifetime warranty. Phoenix will do a search for reviews and recommendations as well.

New brackets would be required to bear the weight of the new baskets, which would need to be installed by DPW.

Kingdom Gardens costed out this option and compared it to the cost of their services in 2025. This year purchasing the planters and brackets, plus watering services, providing hanging baskets and other flowers, would cost the same as last year's contract, in the vicinity of \$11k. The cost in future years would be drastically reduced, as the one-time purchase would be complete.

The committee is unanimously in favor of this approach, pending the Town's confirmation of fund availability.

The committee discussed basket purchases and arrived at the following:

- 9 Earthplanter baskets on Eastern Ave + brackets
- 4 Earthplanter baskets at the Welcome Center
- 1 back-up Earthplanter in case of damage (to be stored at Kingdom Gardens)
- 2 basic basket plantings as further back-up

The ground planters can be watered on the same timeline as the hanging baskets, every 3 days or so. The planter at the Buttery will need to be added, as Beautification is taking over that planting.

Discussion of the color scheme and texture of plantings. KG will use the. Basic scheme of blue & yellow petunias will be followed, but KG can get creative with texture. Heather will follow a similar design with the ground planters.

4. Close Meeting: Gena moves to adjourn. Vanessa seconds. Meeting adjourned 12:26pm