

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

**April 21, 2026 at 11am
St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 3rd Floor**

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

Others Attending: Cathy Hanks (DPW)

1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 11:03am
2. Agenda Changes: None.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Minutes approval from January & Special Meeting:

Heather moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on 1/20/26 as presented. Lorrie seconded. Unanimous approval.

Heather moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting on 2/23/26 as presented. Lorrie seconded. Unanimous approval.

5. Discussion of changes with flowers, watering, with Kingdom Gardens:

Discussion of the hanging baskets and contract with Kingdom Gardens. They have received approval for their deposit to purchase the new basket system and they are planted.

Discussion of water access at parks.

Heather will be doing the street planters as she has in the past, using the color schemes that KG is using for their hanging baskets. She'll be doing those plantings in the afternoons May 20 – 22, and requests committee volunteers.

6. May 1 – St. J Academy Work Crew Planning:

Gena reviewed the list of locations and projects that St. J Academy students will support on their Freshman Challenge day, May 1. Trailhead Pavilion is not on the list, and Gillian followed up with Chris to confirm that it can be added.

7. Spring & Summer Work:

The committee reviewed the projects from past years on the beautification spreadsheet and made some updates:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Amp0ku9WqRiP4IJSQXpYqSStAyDQWUI_1CYycaliP5w/edit?usp=sharing

The committee will assist with downtown weeding this year since DPW is down several staff for medical leave. The committee is supportive of using weed torches, which should hopefully make ongoing maintenance easier. Tom Turek, Heather, and others have weed torches to lend, and Gillian will put together a volunteer workday sometime in June.

8. Other Business:

This will be Heather's last year on the committee, so we will need to work on recruitment and to replace her as the lead on the downtown planters.

Vanessa sent ahead her letter to Portland Street business owners for review. The committee thinks the tone of the letter is great, with a few suggestions:

- Add specific things that beautification has done in the past few years.
- Add contact info for Chair Jim Brown if people want to reach out.

A final draft of the letter should go to Joe & Chad for approval and to be put on letterhead.

Salvation Farms will be piloting edible gardens down at the Trailhead Pavilion. Sarah Gagne is leading that coordination.

General discussion of preparations to make the LVRT Extension ready for the arrival of LVRT users.

9. Close Meeting: Meeting adjourned 12:12pm