

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

**April 8, 2025 at 11:00am
St. Johnsbury Town Offices, 3rd Floor**

Committee Members Present: Jim & Lorrie Brown, Gena Glidden, Gillian Sewak, Heather Alger

Ex-officio: Steve Beauregard (Dept. of Public Works)

Other attendees: Denise Walton, Tamara Neidzolkowski, Rick Amori, Phoenix Anise

1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 11:04am

Introductions around the room for committee member introductions and additional attendees to describe their backgrounds.

2. Agenda Changes: Include in other business: Welcome Signs, Summer Work, Beautification 50th Anniversary Celebration
3. Public Comment: None
4. Approve minutes of January 14 meeting: Gena moved to approve the minutes with the amendment to adjust the spelling of “Lorie” to Lorrie” in several places, and to correct the word “end” under Other Business to say “second”. Lorrie seconded. Unanimous approval.
5. May 2 Work with St. J A Freshman:

Gena has been coordinating with Annie Angell at St. J Academy to assign different freshman groups to park clean up projects. So far, assignments include:

- Fred Mold & Ramsey Parks and Pearl Street upper parking lot cleanup (Jim to support)
- Portland & History & Heritage (Gena to support)
- South Park (Nanine Beard to support)
- American Legion (Lauren Jarvi will lead)

DPW will clean up brush.

Phoenix will help with clean up of the Portland St. stairways.

Discussion of training students on safety around hazardous items. Phoenix will prepare a one page document with best practices and Gena will send it to the school.

6. Spring Calendar:

Kingdom Gardens order: plantings are underway for hanging baskets. The regular hanging baskets will be using coconut husk instead of the white plastic. They will be hung before Memorial Day. They will also water both the hanging baskets and the downtown planters every day until Indigenous People's Day in October.

Jim & Lorrie will continue with their Depot Sq. planting projects, and Gena with her parks & medians (flowers have been pre-ordered). Tara will be doing the Four Seasons as well as Hastings & Pleasant Triangle. Bob Harrod will continue with Arnold Park as always.

Downtown planters: Heather & Lorrie will lead the planting of 8 large planters and 6 self-watering planters, with helpers including Phoenix, Tara, and Denise. DPW will deliver planters the 19th or 20th of May.

Mulch will also be delivered that same time period.

Goal for all plantings is to happen either the week before or of Memorial Day, to be ready before Alumni Weekend, June 2.

Review of purchase order process:

- Get budget estimate from nursery or hardware store
- Ask Chad to prepare a Purchase Order
- Bring PO to the nursery or hardware store when you purchase the items.

Discussion of whether to do spring décor like bulb plantings/maple tree displays. The window for this to be put up is short, depending on when the last snow falls and spring weather arrives. This can be a goal to discuss next year.

Hanging banners – DPW will try to get them out next week before Maple Fest along with the trash barrels, but it may be a bit later.

Gillian will update the spreadsheet with the changes and send them to the committee.

7. Recruitment methods & means:

Several meeting attendees signed up to volunteer with the Town as part of beautification efforts. Denise Walton, Rick Amori, Phoenix Anise, and Tamara Neidzolkowski completed volunteer service agreements.

Jim presented an additional list of possible Beautification members or volunteer contacts.

Tamara offered to help with volunteer outreach & engagement.

Denise mentioned that the CaTCH program students are also looking for summer activities, and could help with small summer maintenance projects.

8. Other Business

- Welcome Signs: Gillian provided a report about the progress completing a new design for the Welcome to St. Johnsbury gateway signs. Target is to have them installed early summer.
- Summer Projects: CaTCH program students can assist with weeding. We will want to come up with a plan by June to ensure it happens.
- 50th Celebration: Beautification Committee will be celebrating its 50th this year. Suggest possibly hosting it in Ramsey Park, combined with a perennial swap event, possibly in mid-late August. Jim will follow up via email to plan the event.

Additional discussion of possible options for winter décor, i.e. snowflakes vs. garlands. The committee likes the look of white light snowflakes on light poles. Steve and DPW will research options and pricing to see if it's cost-competitive with the garlands.

9. Adjourn: Lorrie moves to adjourn. Gena seconds. Unanimous approval. Adjourned at 12:24pm.