

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

**January 20, 2026 at 11:00am  
St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 2nd<sup>d</sup> Floor**

Committee Members Present: Jim & Lorrie Brown, Gena Glidden, Gillian Sewake, Vanessa Allen

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

1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 11:06am
2. Agenda Changes: None.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Approval of Minutes from 10/14/2025

Gena moved to approve the minutes as presented. Lorrie seconded. Unanimous approval

5. Looking back: review of spring/summer/fall/winter work. Planting, weeding, watering, maintaining, bulbs, Evaluations of work.

Bulbs:

- Jim wished he had done more, but made progress. There doesn't appear to be any sign of squirrel tampering.
- Gillian planted 90 daffodils under the 3 Welcome Signs set in raised beds.

Gaps:

- We didn't have a clear leader for Trailhead Pavilion or the Welcome Signs.
- Weeding: DPW did all of the weed whacking downtown last year because the volunteer efforts all fell through. Steve has budgeted for 2 staff to do this type of summer maintenance – he will coordinate with Gillian to help triage spots that need it.
- More garbage cans are needed for parks – there is a grant for this, but the paperwork hasn't been executed yet. Hopefully it will be available soon so purchases can be made.

Winter decorating:

- Consensus is that the snowflakes look great, and we want to purchase more over time. The garlands were missed this year, but we will not be able to purchase them again in 2026 to save budget for purchasing snowflakes. DPW is going to explore a larger one-time purchase to get more snowflakes at once, but that's pending budget availability.
- The trees have been underwhelming this year. They keep toppling over, and the planters don't look as good. Gillian will survey downtown bizs to see what they think, and we will consider not purchasing them next year.

6. Looking forward: 2025-26 Budget, 2026-27 Budget:

Current 2026 budget: Chad reported that the Beautification line appears to be used up for the year already, but Steve & Chad need to look at it to make sure that coding is correct and that DPW expenses haven't been applied there incorrectly. We will need several thousand dollars to move ahead with the Kingdom Gardens contract, spring mulch orders and plantings.

Next year 2027 budget: This budget starts July 1. \$18,000 is budgeted once again.

7. Winter, Spring Calendar:

Committee reviewed the Google projects spreadsheet, linked here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Amp0ku9WqRiP4IJSQXpYqSStAyDQWUI\\_1CYycaliP5w/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Amp0ku9WqRiP4IJSQXpYqSStAyDQWUI_1CYycaliP5w/edit?usp=sharing)

The committee made several updates and added projects, including:

- Adding Vanessa to the list of committee helpers for Trailhead Pavilion mulching.
- Jim will plan to explore a new planting at the South Welcome Sign, pending availability of extra flowers.
- Pearl St. Upper Parking Lot garden bed removal: DPW has scheduled this for spring 2026. Jim has tagged shrubs worth saving, and they should be taken to DPW to be distributed by the committee to Ramsey Park or Fred Mold, etc.
- Salvation Farms edible gardens project: Salvation Farms is a gleaning organization with an office in St. J. They approached Gillian to discuss creation of an edible garden. The committee is supportive, but wants to confirm who would set it up, and do maintenance/watering. Locations for consideration include: LVRT extension along Bay St. (likely not available this year), Buck Park (has water), Fred Mold, Pearl St. paved area (when completed in the spring). Gillian will invite them to the April meeting to discuss.
- Portland Street beautification project: Vanessa would like to encourage business and property owners along Portland St to improve the appearance of their properties. She will draft a letter for the committee to review at the April meeting to gently encourage their investment. Things to mention include that the Town will be repairing sidewalks to Buk Park, the street is now part of a Neighborhood Designated Area, which will eventually allow the Town to access grants and funding for infrastructure improvements, and the committee can supply perennials when flower beds are split for plantings.

8. More recruitment methods & means: Vanessa will spearhead more outreach on social media, through the Town's Facebook page. She will send images and notes to Rachel Waterhouse to post.

9. Welcome Signs Report / Next Meeting: Next meeting moved forward by one week to Tuesday, April 21 at 11am.

10. Adjourn: Lorrie moves to adjourn. Gena seconds. Meeting adjourned 12:26pm