

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

**July 14, 2026 at 11am
St. Johnsbury Welcome Center, 3rd Floor**

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

Others Attending: Steve Beauregard (DPW)

1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 11:04am
2. Agenda Changes: None.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Minutes approval from April 21 Meeting:

Phoenix moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on 4/21/26 as presented. Gena seconded. Unanimous approval.

5. Discussion of what's working, where we need help, what is being done next:

What's going well:

- Medians look beautiful.
- Communication has improved and committee work between meetings seems to be going very smoothly.
- Planters look fantastic.
- Hanging baskets look great, although some committee members prefer more trailing flowers like the purple wave petunias of past years, and some prefer the current layered foliage.

What needs help:

- Gillian has not been able to schedule a weeding day like she hoped.
 - o Jim has been covering Railroad Street. He will start doing the Pearl Street lot too.
 - o DPW will be weed whacking sidewalks, curbs, and buildings on Railroad & Eastern.
 - o Ellen Burt is helping with Alright Springs.

6. Summer & Fall Work:

Flower bed weeding is underway.

- Jim has some plants to add next to Town Clerk.
- Vanessa and Phoenix will work on the Trailhead Pavilion.

- Gena is interested in working on North Avenue park, although that would need to wait until a shading tree is taken down.

Heather has handed off the downtown planter project to Phoenix.

Trash cans: None are available beyond what is out for this year. A few have been ordered, but they are all spoken for. Steve will explore purchasing more in next year's budget.

Trees:

- Discussion of the spruce at Buck Park and the dead & dying tree on Concord Ave.
- Box elder on North Avenue park should be taken down to add more light.
- Jim will prune the trees along Main Street.
- Dead tree on winter street should be taken down.

The Edible Gardens project is not moving forward at the Trailhead, but Sarah Gane is working with organizer Salvation Farms to find another spot, possibly at Four Seasons Park along the fence.

Fall projects:

- Pearl Street paving project is planned for the fall. When the garden beds are removed, there are some bushes that should be saved for planting elsewhere.
- Gena & Lorrie are purchasing mums for flower beds.
- More bulbs will need to be ordered and planted.

Fall perennial swap:

- Date set for Saturday, September 12, 10am – noon at Depot Square Park
- Vanessa will sponsor the cake purchase. Lorrie will bring water and lemonade.
- Gillian will do a flyer again, and ask Rachel at the town to spread the word.

7. New budget cycle. Officer Elections. Volunteer recognition & appreciation:

Have entered the Town's new fiscal year. Steve will purchase more snowflakes.

Officer elections. All current officers are happy to remain. Jim Brown is chair, Gena Glidden is vice chair, and Gillian Sewake is clerk.

Jim moved to accept the slate of existing officers. Vanessa seconded. Unanimous approval.

Gena moved to add Louise Buck as a committee member (grandfathered in after years of volunteer work). Lorrie seconded. Unanimous approval.

Appreciation was expressed for departing committee member Heather Alger.

8. Other Business:

Vanessa sent ahead her letter to Portland Street business owners for review. The committee thinks the letter is ready, with the suggestion to remove the section about the neighborhood designation.

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

9. Close Meeting: Meeting adjourned 12:06pm