

Town of Rowe

## Beautification Committee

### MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024 7:00 p.m.

In-Person at Cyndie Stetson's Home

1. **Called to Order** at 7:04 p.m. Present were Cyndie Stetson, Virginia Gary and Ann Grieco.

2. **Old Business:** Cyndie: What has been done so far looks good. She and Virginia have been doing lots of watering and some weeding. We can plant around the stone bench in the Town Common. Cyndie will email B.J. Roach and ask for plants she is willing to donate. Brittingham Hill garden looks good. Gazebo looks good. Lupine and other plants are doing well. The boxes on the bridge by Rowe Camp and Conference Center entrance look great! Something ate the plants in the box by the Pelham Lake Park sign.

Virginia: Weeded around the stone bench. Weeded and pruned Brittingham Hill Garden. The area by the sign in front of Pelham Lake Park was mulched by the Town. Should we plant perennials there before the Town Summer Social on July 14? We agreed that was a good idea.

Virginia would like guidance on how to arrange the plants there so that it doesn't detract from the attractive sign at the entrance. Low plants near the sign? Taller plants on either side of the sign? Virginia would appreciate Cyndie's help determining placement of the plants. Cyndie suggested using low sedum, which is drought tolerant. She does not recommend beebalm or lupine because they will grow too tall.

She reminded us that we shouldn't do any more spending until July 1st, when the new Fiscal budget of \$1,500.00 begins. Virginia can submit receipts for things she has already purchased, and the Town can probably reimburse her from another part of their budget.

Virginia has been watering by Town Hall and the fountain. What should we do with the area between the clumps of iris in the fountain? She bought some starters from Walker Farm including delphinium and hollyhocks, but those grow very tall. Should she plant black-eyed susan? Shasta daisies?

Cyndie suggested planting Flagstaff Iris or Japanese Roof Iris, but recommended waiting until later in the year to buy them. We could try tall garden phlox, which

smell good and bloom a long time. Phlox and shasta daisies would be a good combination, and Cyndie has some daisies we could use.

Virginia bought some bags of mulch, which we will use later. She put a planter by the Town of Rowe sign at the Vermont border on Leshure Road. She wants to put lillies on one side of the sign, but doesn't think we need them on both sides. Cyndie agreed that using them on one side is fine.

Virginia finished planting by the Town sign on Cyrus Stage Road. The sign at the Town line on Zoar Road looks nice. The double begonias are doing great. Have we gotten anyone to weed whack around the signs or at Town Hall? Cyndie said that no one has volunteered to do that yet.

Virginia thinks the hanging baskets on Zoar Road and the window boxes look good. Should we put something by the sign? Cyndie said we should just use lillies there this year.

Virginia thinks the geraniums in the barrel look leggy. Cyndie recommended they be pinched back so that all the plants are the same height. Virginia wondered what type of plant food Cyndie recommends because she heard that Miracle-gro is not good to use. Cyndie asked what was wrong with using Miracle-gro--she uses it and likes the results. Virginia said she would use Miracle-gro, but asked if Osmocote is okay. Cyndie said Virginia can choose what to use for fertilizer.

Cyndie has been watering the plants by the Police Station. Paul Plante told her that one is not doing well, so Cyndie will replace it.

Virginia asked if we knew whether there was any mulch that had been designated for our use. We do not know and have not heard anything about that. Virginia mentioned that at our last meeting, we talked about using some of the wood chips from the tree service. We could use some chips or mulch at the garden on Hazelton Road. The lillies at the Historical Museum need mulch, and Brittingham Hill Garden could use more mulch. Since the chips from the tree service are so rough, we decided to wait until a later date and use bagged mulch for those areas.

**3. New Business:** Virginia has not been buying plants, but will go shopping this week. Aubuchon in Shelburne Falls has annuals only. Should she plant vibrant succulents in the bowl like she did last year? Yes, we agreed. Should she plant annuals by the Pelham Lake Park sign? Perennials are preferred, but at least annuals will add color and interest before the Town Social. Aubuchon has petunias which will be nice, easy to maintain, and add instant color. We agreed on planting petunias.

Cyndie said Atherton Farm doesn't have much plant material left, but they do have a few perennials. B.J. Roach and Karen Soviecke may have perennials they would be willing to donate. Cyndie will place an article in the Goal Post asking for perennial donations. She put a pot on the bridge. Cyndie showed us copies of the leaflet she created showing the locations and descriptions of the gardens included in this year's tour.

Virginia said that there are a couple of plant-specific groups in town--one that studies irises and the other, primroses. So they will be excited about the gardens included in this year's Tour. She asked if there is anything else we need to do before the Garden Tour. Cyndie said we need to continue to weed and water. She asked if the coleus on the steps to Town Hall was doing okay. Virginia said it was and that she was continuing to water it.

Virginia suggested that the two areas we could focus on planting before the Town Social were behind the stone bench in the Town Common and in the bed around the Pelham Lake Park sign. Cyndie suggested we wait to do the Pelham Lake Park area, but then Virginia suggested that perhaps we could plant the petunias there. We liked that idea and agreed to meet on Monday, June 24, at 10 a.m. to plant at Pelham Lake Park and then plant behind the bench in the Town Common.

Ann asked about Dawn's suggestion to dress up the well and pole by the gazebo. Cyndie thought it might be nice to light up the area by putting some solar posts in the ground by the well and two--one on either side--by the stone bench. Virginia offered to look for some while shopping. Cyndie said if they weren't too expensive, Virginia could pick them up. Otherwise, Cyndie would order them on Amazon.

Virginia asked if anyone had started working on repairs at the gazebo, and whether it was our job to do that. Cyndie said that was not our responsibility, but the Town's, and that no repairs had been done.

Ann completed her Conflict of Interest training for the State and submitted her certificates to Kevin Balawick, Town Clerk. She is scheduled to be sworn in on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

**4. Citizen Comments:** None.

**5. Next Meeting** will be on Monday, July 15, 2024 (the day after the Town Social) at 7 p.m. at Cyndie Stetson's home. We will discuss putting the perennials in.

