

Town of Rowe

Beautification Committee

MEETING

Monday, April 15, 2024 7:00 p.m.

In Person at Cyndie Stetson's House

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

2. Old Business: Christie Beaumier stored the barrels from the Transfer Station over the winter. Virginia has three barrels and the square planter at her house. Rowe Town Office bought holiday wreaths, but Cyndie was unsure whether it came out of the Beautification budget. All potted plants were cared for by Town Hall employees. The plants (and employees) made it through the winter and are doing okay.

NOTE: Next Fall, remember to put painted white sticks (Christmas decorations) in the ground before it freezes!

3. New Business: Cyndie planted pansies at Town Hall and Office. Dawn mentioned that stores like Stop N Shop are giving away spring plants like hyacinths, daffodils, tulips and lilies that went unsold after Easter. Do we want them? Everyone agreed that we do. Dawn will pick them up, and we will store and keep them dormant until it's warm enough to plant them.

At the end of May, Cyndie would like to place another barrel to be planted with just impatiens (at what location?) She hopes the Town approves our last budget. Cyndie asked who takes care of the gazebo (physical structure, painting, etc.), which is in need of repair. Virginia believes it is Jerry Ferguson, who does the painting and other work for Town buildings. Cyndie will talk to Donna Butzke to confirm that Jerry is the one she can talk to about what needs to be done at the gazebo. Cyndie also wondered whether electricity had been restored to the gazebo. The solar lights are still working there. She would like to add window boxes or hanging plants along the railings at the arched openings to the gazebo. Ocean State Job Lots sells them at reasonable prices. Virginia offered empty window boxes we could try, but they would need potting soil and drainage material.

Cyndie received permission from Sean Loomis to place a barrel (to be filled with flowers) by the rock with inscription at Percy's Point. A barrel ((also from Ocean

Cyndie would like to make signs to go into the ground that read, "Rowe Beautification Recognition." After receiving permission from the homeowners, signs would be placed in the yards of people who have added to the beauty of our town with their gardens and plantings. We all agreed this is a great idea, and approved of the wording.

Cyndie spoke to someone at Town Hall who thinks the Beautification Committee should clean up the brush and debris left behind by the tree contractors used by National Grid. We all agreed that this is not the responsibility of our committee.

She also mentioned that the lilies at the Town Office are coming up. We should dig them up and plant them by Town signs that don't already have any. She suggested that we work together to dress up the Town Office by adding hanging plants. There are plenty of daylilies on the bulkhead to the side of Town Hall which can be planted at various areas throughout Town. We agreed to do what we can to place and plant them at Town signs and other areas throughout Town before our next meeting.

Cyndie said that the daffodils by the Veterans Memorial at Town Hall are budding. When they go past, she thinks we should plant geraniums there, as John Magnano used to do. Virginia took pictures of the daffodils blooming at Brittingham Hill. Cyndie said they need to be deadheaded, and the mums need to be broken off. Cyndie will clean up Myra's bed so that Myra doesn't have to do that.

Virginia asked whether we can trim the bushes and vines around the Town Hall building. Cyndie suggested we look at it and see what can be done in order to determine whether we need permission from Town Hall.

Virginia will trim the grasses at the Town sign and doesn't think there is much else that needs trimming.

Cyndie asked for suggestions for new beds and places to add plantings and other areas around Town that could benefit from our work. Virginia suggested the State Line marker from Vermont where it meets Cyrus Stage Road. She also suggested creating a planting bed similar to Brittingham Hill in the triangular area by Hazelton Road. Dawn clarified that this area is past Dohn Sherman's house on the right. Perhaps we could plant daffodils and daylilies in that area.

We discussed whether to utilize the wood chips that are available from the tree service, and all agreed this is a good idea. Cyndie will talk to Chuck (foreman of the crews) and ask if they will dump wood chips in an area of Town where we can get to them and use them for our projects. Ann agreed to ask Lance Larned if an area on Town property is available for us to store wood chips and use them as needed.

Virginia suggested planting on the back side (not just where you enter from Charlemont) of the Town sign. She also asked if we could place pots on the bridge just before the Town sign. Unfortunately, the bridge is in Charlemont, so we cannot.

Virginia also suggested placing a barrel by the bench near the gazebo at the Town Center and planting flowers in it.

Cyndie will ask Molly Lane at the library about sprucing up the gardens there.

Dawn said that Rob Beaumier will put the barrels out at the Transfer Station. Cyndie said that using daylilies in the barrels there is fine.

Virginia asked whether it was necessary to compost the lilies. Cyndie said it is not.

Virginia offered to get perennials from Aubuchon, which offers a deep discount to the committee. Cyndie (and all of us) heartily agreed! Dawn asked whether the garden center across from Aubuchon would also be a good resource. Virginia said they would not offer us a discount. Cyndie said that while getting plants and planting material from Aubuchon is great, she would also like to get plants and material from Paul at Atherton Farm in order to support a local business.

Virginia said there are several stumps at Percy's Point that could be planted to add interest and color. Cyndie thought impatiens in pots would work best and have long-lasting impact and color, but that the area is shady enough to try astilbe. Petunias are another colorful addition that are easy to maintain and will drape color over the sides of the stumps.

Virginia offered to ask Craig Brown to hollow out the tops of the stumps so we could plant in them directly. She expressed concern that wind could knock over pots placed directly on the stumps. We all agreed this was a good idea. Virginia asked whether putting plants up by the Fort Pelham Historical site was a good idea. Ann said that when she had hiked up there many years ago, there was not much to see or to distinguish the site. It probably isn't a place that many folks in Town go to.

Cyndie said that although the Historical Society maintains its own areas, she cleaned up in front of some areas. She also suggested that we place a barrel (another one purchased from Ocean State Job Lots) on the dam across the street from Ron and Kathy Atwood's house on Pond Road. We all agreed this was a good idea.

Virginia asked whether we had heard that people are asking about turning the fountain at Town Hall back into a fountain. We had not. She also suggested finding a way to add interest to the well with the wooden handle by Town Hall. What was its original purpose?

Cyndie will place and maintain the barrel in front of the Police Station/Fire Department. Danielle Beaumier will water those areas. Virginia will water the planter at the Town sign and at the big green barrel coming into Town.

Dawn suggested we could "glam up" the bridge going to the Rowe Center by adding pots with plants there. There is a railing on the bridge which could be used for hanging planters. She also asked about using shepherd's hooks for hanging

Cyndie asked about the bridge on Cyrus Stage Road, which is slated to be repaired this summer. How will we get access around it while it is being repaired? After it is fixed, maybe we could put flower boxes on it. Dawn said that because her property may need to be used during construction, they met with a representative who said that they were planning to keep one lane open throughout construction.

Cyndie asked that, before our May meeting, everyone look around to see what areas we can improve and dress up. By that time, we will have the budget information, so we will know what we can buy.

Cyndie said that the Town is looking for activities to offer residents over the summer. In July, they would like to do something like the Fall-a Pallooza. It's too much work to plan and host Old Home Days, which many folks would like to bring back. There is extra money in the budget from the fireworks that didn't happen last year. Cyndie asked whether we would approve of her suggesting that we host a Garden Tour, to include 4-5 gardens and be free to the public (although participants could make a donation to a local charity like the Good Neighbors Food Pantry.) Maps could be handed out at a central location where people could also make a donation, if they chose to do so. We all agreed that this is a good idea, and we support Cyndie's making the suggestion to the Town.

Virginia said that, as a teacher, she liked bringing students to special wildlife areas and have them enjoy and learn from the natural beauty of our area. The Davis Mine Bog is an unusual wildlife habitat, which has an area of pitcher plants on the left. Perhaps we could offer a combined garden/wildlife tour. Dawn said there is an area on Tuttle Road which has a beautiful bed of natural hostas that could also be included.

4. Citizen Comments: None, since this is the first meeting of the year.

5. Next Meeting will be on May 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Cyndie Stetson's house. The Town meeting will happen before the next Beautification Committee meeting, so our budget will be available.

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.