

Town of Rowe Beautification Committee

Meeting Minutes from Monday, June 26, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

In person at Cyndie Stetson's Home

1. **Called to order** at 7:14 p.m. Present were Cyndie Stetson, Virginia Gary and Ann Grieco.
2. **Old Business:** Cyndie asked who maintains the signs and areas around them throughout town, as some appear well maintained while others aren't. Ann shared that Lance Larned from DPW maintains the signs, but she is unsure who maintains the areas around them. Virginia suggested that Ann bring printed copies of the notes from her meeting with Lance to the next Beautification Committee meeting, which Ann agreed to do.*

Cyndie submitted an article to the Goal Post, which appears in the July 2023 issue, about the Committee and its members and work. She also let residents know about the herb garden at the Library, which folks are free to use. They can donate herbs, plant herbs in the raised beds, and/or take herbs they want.

Cyndie emailed Brooke Shulda about when the Committee members will be sworn in. The timing depends on when the Select Board meets and its schedule.

Barrel at Town Entrance: Virginia worked at this site but did not move the sweet william, as it will be relocated to the Brittingham Hill Road garden area when the site is ready. Virginia asked permission to plant more impatiens in the barrel and to buy more from Aubuchon (where she receives a 50% discount on behalf of the Committee). Cyndie agreed, and suggested that members of the Committee can fill in areas with flowers and plants without waiting for approval/permission. UPDATE: On July 5, 2023, Cyndie moved the sweet william to the Brittingham Hill garden.

Fountain Area: While working on this garden, Virginia noticed that the lupine weren't doing well, and asked Ann to move them to the area around the gazebo. When Ann dug them out, they all were covered with white powdery mildew spots, including the roots; so Ann chose to dispose of rather than move them. Cyndie suggested adding tall plants, iris and more day lilies to the fountain area, and creating a green background with color in front.

Ann spoke with Janice Beaudreau on June 27, 2023 regarding the fountain and asked about plants that have worked well there. Janice is unaware of any drainage in the concrete fountain. The water source no longer functions. As it is made of cement, the fountain and the rocks in it usually get quite hot and dry. It is in direct sun at all times, so it often must be watered daily. Some annuals have worked well, as do day lilies. At one time, Janice planted a flowering vine (I don't remember the name), which starts with a "C" (not columbine or clematis) that did well. As the soil tends to be sandy, amending it might be helpful.

Town Hall Area: Virginia created a potted, drought tolerant collection on the right side of Town Hall, which was inspired by Myra's ideas. Virginia contacted Myra to see if she wanted additional flowers planted in the beds on the right side of Town Hall.

Transfer Station: Virginia added lilies to the barrels at the Transfer Station. The barrels were created by Maggie Rice, who has passed away. Robert Beaumier has continued caring for them, but would like help watering them. The position of the barrels is to help guide traffic flow while providing access for trucks to move the large containers.

Veteran's Memorial/Gazebo Area: Ann weeded and pruned this area. Cyndie suggested adding hanging baskets to the gazebo, but daily watering, if needed, might make this unrealistic. UPDATE: Virginia noticed there is a light fixture in the gazebo. Should we investigate using it? Or create another (solar) source for lighting up the gazebo at night?

Virginia will give 1 bag of extra mulch to Ann for use in these areas, and keep one for her garden areas.

Brittingham Hill Garden: Based on the size and scale of this project, we agreed to arrange an on-site meeting after the 4th of July holidays to design and lay out the garden. Cyndie would like to enlarge the site, while keeping the triangular shape. Due to the remote location and lack of easy access to a water supply, it's important to consider using drought tolerant, deer resistant plants not only in this area, but also whenever possible in the other gardens created and/or maintained by the Committee. Cyndie suggested adding more tall (such as Autumn Joy) sedum and day lilies, and incorporating bleeding heart, catmint (Walker's low nepeta), bee balm and low (ground cover) sedum. Virginia made a drawing of the design ideas and planting suggestions. Ann will make copies and bring to the next meeting.* Virginia has an extra bag of soil to use in this garden.

Budget/Receipts: Virginia has already turned her receipts in to Town Hall. Since the Town's Fiscal Year runs through the end of June, Cyndie recommends purchasing whatever we need before then. An additional \$500 will be available starting July 1st.

Garden Tour: At the last meeting, we discussed organizing a garden tour. Because of the amount of time involved in preparing for this and contacting people whose gardens we may wish to include, Cyndie recommends putting this on the 2024 schedule. She suggested timing it around Father's Day when many plants are in bloom.

3. New Business: Cyndie would like to have a place in Town for residents to share their extra produce during the month of August. She thought setting up a table in front of the Library would be a good location, so Ann will speak with Molly Lane about this possibility.

Cyndie suggested the committee look for ways to create and participate in more community-based activities. Some suggestions included creating a sunflower garden and making seeds available for people in the community. Virginia suggested the hill by the school as a potential site, and/or making raised bed gardens. Site locations need to be researched.

4. Citizen Comments: While working around the gazebo, Ann spoke with a couple visiting from Texas who said they were impressed with how lovely and well maintained the gardens and other public spaces were throughout Town.

5. Next Meeting is scheduled for July 24* at 7:00 p.m. at Cyndie Stetson's home.

*NOTE: Ann will be out of town on July 24, but will mail or drop off notes from her meeting with Lance and Virginia's drawing of the Brittingham Hill garden design prior to the meeting.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Town of Rowe: Beautification Committee Meeting

July 24, 2023 at 7:10

Present Members:

Cyndie Stetson- President, and members: Myra Carlow With her friend: Elizabeth Hanna, Virginia Gary, Danielle and Dawn Beaumier.

Minutes :

Old Business:

Worked on Britt Garden, Barrel, Fountain, Potter Road, and Gazebo

Received Letters to be appointed.

7/25 went to Town Clerk and got sworn in.

Cyndie wrote an article for the Goalpost

Dawn gave two Stella Doro Lilies

The committee decided to not plant bee balm at the Britt Garden.

Transfer Station : lilies doing well, all barrels have flowers planted in them.

Map of the Britt Garden was reviewed and fixed.

New Business:

Virginia got plants from Aubuchon's, at a discounted price. They include many perennials and some annuals.

There was a \$40.00 donation given to the committee from a friend of Jodi Brown to purchase a plant in her memory.

Idea is to find a spot near the gazebo.

We discussed the Town sign on Zoar road and decided to plant lilies and ornamental grasses. We are also planning to add a container to put under the sign.

The committee wanted to get permission to trim out the volunteer trees in the historical society daylily bed.

Lots of paving happening currently in town, committee has to work around this. Discussion of what other places in town need a little beautification: Monroe Hill Sign, Old Cemetery Sign: North Cemetery, Ford Hill Rd.

Dawn shared tips about deer repellent: use cayenne pepper

Myra shared there is a deer spray: Repels All that has been very effective to deter bunnies and deer from eating plants.

Myra reported: the Potter Road bed has had some work: shrub trimming, hosta and day lilies are doing well., She gave us an update on Japanese Anemones were donated by Myra. Pansies need to be pulled. Myra requested some begonias be purchased for this bed. She reported the mowing has been extremely carefully done and she appreciated this!

Tasks to do:

Virginia is going to check with the historical society about trimming the volunteer trees out. Dawn and Danielle are going to pull the pansies still left in the fountain bed.

The solar lights in the fountain were donated by Dawn.

Myra and Earl are helping with deadheading the flowers around the town hall.

Britt Hill garden: Enlarge it!

Cyndie and Virginia will mark off the grid with bailing twine.

Anne and Myra with Earl plus Virginia will dig the bed out. Plants will go in soon and then we will figure out a water schedule.

Other topics covered: Emails have been good way to communicate. Try to use this when work is done. The committee has received positive comments from the community!

Dawn reported the Library Herb garden will be used and neighbors are becoming aware of this option.

Meeting ended at 8:20.

Next Meeting: August 21, 2023

7:00pm at C. Stetson's house, Potter Rd.

Town of Rowe Beautification Committee Meeting

August 21, 2023 at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Cyndie Stetson, President, and Members: Myra Carlow, Virginia Gary and Ann Grieco

Minutes:

Old Business:

Brittingham Hill Garden has been finished. It was a team effort. Ann dug out the expanded bed, Cyndie and Virginia placed and planted all the new material, Myra and her husband, Earl, mulched the new garden. Myra suggested planting daffodil bulbs along the bottom of the bed, and suggested adding daylilies to fill in after the daffodils fade.

Cyndie weeded the daylilies at the Transfer Station and other areas. Daylilies at Transfer Station are doing well. She watered the barrel by the fire station. Cyndie weeded the community herb garden by the library and labeled the plants.

New Task: Water the plants in the fountain at Town Hall.

Myra and Cyndie weeded the area around the parking lot by Town Hall. Myra, Cyndie and Virginia weeded and pruned by the gazebo. They planted lupines by the gazebo and noticed new baby lupines starting to grow in that area.

Myra will remove the weed with purple berries by Town Hall.

Virginia weeded the fountain and deadheaded the daylilies. She also pulled out the pansies and will relocate them and the New Zealand pansies. Should the fountain be mulched? Myra felt this could be beneficial.

Virginia asked Janice Beaudreau who landscapes, and prunes, trims and maintains the areas around Town Hall. Janice said that she and Brooke Shulda have done some work in these areas, and that it was fine for the Beautification Committee to weed, prune and trim them.

Virginia got permission from Ed May to weed out the trees in the daylily bed by the Historical Society. She also suggested not doing work by the signs at cemeteries in town at this time. Myra suggested that the Cemetery Commission could do it.

Myra has 3 "sad" astilbe at her house that we need to find a place to plant.

Cyndie asked who had been sworn in, and all members present have been. Cyndie asked who had completed the Ethics Test, but only she has. Members have committed to completing Ethics Test through the Town Hall site prior to our next meeting.

New Business:

What type of hydrangea should be purchased with the donation of \$40 made in honor of Jodi Brown? Everyone agreed that the hydrangeas in the Beaumier's yard are beautiful. Myra suggested "Pinky Winky," a panicular hydrangea that changes colors in the pink spectrum. Cyndie suggested weigela as another alternative.

Ann agreed to ask Lance about chainsawing down the dead tree by gazebo so it can be replaced with a rose bush or rose of Sharon. She also agreed to ask him about having the dead wood removed from the trees by the parking lot.

New task: Prune Rose of Sharon by Town Hall.

Virginia noticed a huge paper wasp's nest in the tree across from the gazebo. She told one of the DPW workers who said he will let Lance know.

Cyndie will take over caring for the area around the Veteran's memorial. Lots of weeding needs to be done. Should a rose bush be planted there? Geraniums replaced? The former minister from the Rowe church used to take care of the Veteran's memorial.

Virginia suggested enlarging the planting area by the Veteran's memorial. Cyndie prefers not to do that at this time. Virginia mentioned that the names on the memorial continue very close to the ground.

We discussed how to handle the Town sign area on Zoar Road for next year. Virginia suggested using a bigger container for under the sign. Daffodils could be planted under the daylilies. A window box could be used under the sign, and Virginia could ask her husband, Craig, to make one.

Virginia and Myra were curious about the large pine logs near the school on Pond Rd. Who owns them? Could one or some be used by the committee to make benches or something else? Virginia will ask Lance.

Fall plans: Cyndie would like to place one mum at the barrel on Zoar Rd and three by the fountain at Town Hall. What is the current budget? Cyndie will check with Brooke Shulda. Myra suggested placing small mums at the front of the Brittingham Hill garden.

Winter plans: Cyndie has white painted branches to place in the fountain and barrel areas before the ground freezes. What should we use for greens? Who buys the wreaths for Town Hall and places them? Cyndie will ask Janice or Brooke. Does Molly from the library order the wreaths?

This is a good time to remove the dead stalks from daylilies and hostas throughout Town. Gracie House daylilies need to have dead stalks removed, especially area by the street.

All agreed that Christmas lights (solar?) by the gazebo would be lovely. Should we place garland there, too? Next year, it was agreed that hanging baskets should be placed from at least two arches in the gazebo. There are ways of making them easier to water—pellets or other things can be placed in the baskets. We also agreed to put solar lights in the gazebo. Cyndie will order them and donate them to the Town. Jerry Ferguson, an electrician, has been asked to test and see whether the wires in the gazebo work.

Should the Christmas tree by Town Hall be decorated? It is so tall that this might difficult. Virginia suggested asking a tree service like Asplundh to help put lights on the tree. Cyndie said this would require permission from the Select Board.

Virginia submitted her minutes from the July 24, 2023 meeting. Cyndie printed them and gave copies to all present. She will also submit them to Brooke at Town Hall. She will ask about the current budget for mums and solar lights.

Myra donated daffodil bulbs which can be used with the daylilies as a border.

The elephant ear plants are on the porch at Town Hall. Cyndie asked who can care for them over the winter? She is willing to take one. Perhaps Dawn or Danielle? Virginia will bring the succulent container by Town Hall indoors before the first frost. She also mentioned that the Committee has been receiving compliments on a job well done.

Meeting ended at 8:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2023

7:00 p.m. at Cyndie Stetson's house on Potter Rd.

SPECIAL NOTE: Virginia was awarded "Best in State" at the Heath Fair for her container planter. This is given by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. She also won First Place at the Heath Fair for the same container planter. Congratulations, Virginia!

Town of Rowe Beautification Committee Meeting

September 25, 2023 at 7:00pm

Present: Cyndie Stetson, President and Members: Myra Carlow, Virginia Gary, Dawn Beaumier

Old Business:

Review Brittingham Hill Garden work and any changes: Lillies could go in the garden, Myra has daffodils and small lilies she will plant. Garden tip: plant daffodils in front of lilies and as the leaves fade, the lilies cover them. Virginia will move the cat mint over a little, this gives more space between it and the lilies.

Fountain: Cyndie deadheaded and weeded it.

Transfer Station barrels: Cyndie weeded them.

Barrel : looks great!

Jodi Brown Memorial planting has been done: a weigula Bush was planted near the gazebo. Anne worked on this also the rose of Sharon was trimmed and so was the rose bush. The elephant ears were watered.

Town Hall gardens: Myra took a poke weed plant out and a baby maple.

New Business:

Find a sign maker for Jodi Brown sign near her plant.

Find places for winter storage of plants in pots.

Holly needs trimming but we need to wait for the correct time of year to do it. Showing off more of the rocks placed in the garden is a goal.

Mums will be bought and placed in the barrel and the fountain. If we have more mums, they can also go in the Brittingham garden and by the town sign. They go in after the first frost or barrel flowers no longer attractive.

The Oct 28 Scarecrow Competition was discussed. The Chowder Fest in the Stone church was noted.

Virginia will ask Nan Williams about the phone booth. We discussed ways to dress it up and celebrate having it in our town.

Cyndie will purchase solar lights for the gazebo.

Dawn is giving a plant hanger for Virginia to use at the town sign on Zoar road.

Cyndie will send an email when help is needed to clean flower beds after the frost.

Cyndie will place white sticks in flower beds to decorate for winter, this will happen in late October, or beginning of November.

Anyone who has time can plant lilies at important places in town. There are dug lilies available at the town hall. Some places mentioned: the state line on Leshure Road, Cyrus Stage Road, at the Cemetary, at some of the historical signs. We will be looking at where do we welcome people into Rowe?

Community Members have offered plants

Salicki and Jen Small offered bearded iris and siberian iris

Faith has offered a spirea bush. and beebalm

We will connect with these community members and let them know we are interested in their plants but might have to wait until spring to get them.

The committee discussed the intersection of Zoar Road and Brittingham Hill. A question was raised: why there is not a traffic sign there? A yield sign would be helpful.

Meeting ended at 8:15

Next Meeting October 23, 2023

7:00pm at Cyndie Stetson's house on Potter Road

Town of Rowe Beautification Committee Meeting

October 23, 2023 at 7:10pm

Present: Cyndie Stetson, President and Members: Myra Carlow, Virginia Gary,

Old Business:

Minutes accepted from Sept. Meeting.

Three astilbes will be healed in at Myra's house to plant next spring.

Daffodil bulbs(20)and four day lilies planted by Myra at the Britt Garden.

Asters planted by Myra at the Potter Rd. garden. Deer have eaten the hostas and inpatients. Next year the deer spray will be used.

Community members are complimenting our work.

The town hall has adopted our planters of elephant ears and succulent plants for the winter.

Virginia spoke to Nan Williams about the British phone booth and received her blessing to decorate it as we wish. We are interested in hanging lights and adding a wreath to the outside of it.

Around the town hall, the peonies will be cleaned up. The wreaths on the doors are not our responsibility.

New Business

The logs on Pond Road : is there any way to use these as planters? Are they rotted? Do we connect with Eddie Silva or the Highway Dept?

Britt Garden: leave the Cleome alone. We are hoping it comes back next year.

Barrel: Replant the mums and add decorations. Before the ground freezes, white sticks will go in for decoration.

Gazebo will have mums and pumpkins for decoration.

The fountain will have white sticks and greenery.

Does the town own Percy Point? The committee would like to have a container of flowers there.

We are looking for volunteers to help chainsaw the logs on Pond Road if we get permission to use them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Next meeting : Nov 20th at 7:00 at Cyndie's house on Potter Rd.

Minutes from Nov 20 , 2023 Beautification committee meeting:

The meeting began at 7:08

•minutes from the October meeting accepted.

Old Business

•plants around town hall and gazebo cleaned up and annuals were removed by Cyndie

•a light was put to light up the town sign. A hook remains and Cyndie put ornaments on it. Virginia placed the light that is being used there.

•Cyndie and Virginia placed white sticks and balsam greens at the barrel and the fountain gardens.

New Business

•positive comments from the community was shared.

•Sean Loomis gave permission for the committee to add a planter at Percy Point. The committee is currently investigating different ideas for a container to be decided by next spring.

•the barrel will be all impatient plants next year.

• The committee would like to create and give appreciation/ recognition awards for neighbors gardens that show extra effort and beauty next year.

•a gourd arrangement at the gazebo next fall is a committee goal.

•The committee is considering a new area to create a garden. The town sign area was discussed but other areas in town are being considered.

•Virginia will connect with Bill Knittles at Rowe School to find out what the plan is for the large white pine tree trunks down by the school. The committee is interested in using them for gardens if available.

•the day lily clumps by the town hall will be planted in the spring.

The next meeting is April 15, 2024 at 7:00, at Cyndie's home.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 12, 2023, at 9:35 PM, Cyndie Stetson <ccstet29@gmail.com> wrote: