

Village of Williamsville

Beautification Committee

Meeting Minutes taken by Melissa Warner

February 14, 2023 at Village Hall, 5565 Main Street

Members present: Dian Lewin, Melissa Warner, Marcia Roth, Elise Fila, Edie Malizia, Ramona

Schickling, Joanne Miechowski and Mary Lowther (Village Board liaison)

Meeting commenced at 1:00 pm

Dian Lewin opened the meeting in lieu of Deb Habes absent due to illness.

Dian introduced herself and suggested we do an around the table introductions as there were

visiting gardeners and potential new Beautification members.

Visitors included:

Audrey Atwell ,Regina Toomey, Vicki L. Carr (Niagara County Master Gardener and a host of Open Garden WNY and Town and Country Garden Club), Kathy Kensity (Town & amp; Country Garden Club and former Village of Williamsville resident), Joyce Haskel, Village resident & amp; garden consultant), Jackie McGuire (Eight year Master Gardener from “Tribute Garden in North, Tonawanda and Linda Anscombe (Town and Country Garden Club at Clearfield Library).

Dian led the meeting off with the sad news that our Beautification member Pat Earing had

passed away last week. A brief discussion was had as how to best remember our very dedicated

and hard working member .Village pavers and rose plantings were discussed. Further discussion

with group members will continue to find most appropriate memorial.

Mary Lowther did a tribute at the Village Board Meeting Monday February 13th for Pat Earing a

current member of the Beautification Committee & former Garden Walk host who recently had

passed away.

It was also mentioned that a memorial gift was made to the Beautification Committee in honor

of Susan Siepierski (a former village resident & lover of the village gardens) who passed away

this December.

Dian reviewed Garden Priorities for 2023

Melissa commented on a quote from Jar Trophies for a cast aluminum plaque that was

recommended over a resin/polymer type composition for the Mural plaque.

Mary Lowther

agreed on the cast aluminum style as well as sourcing safety vests at Home Depot. Melissa

commented additional research is needed for mural plaque and Garden Name signage.

Dian reviewed Beautification Requests for DPW.

A brief discussion took place amongst members and visitors about the type of new tree that

should be planted at the Heritage Garden of 1812. Recommendations included Tulip, Red

Maple, Witch Hazel and Capital. Mary Lowther mentioned she would check with availability of

tree choices for replacements.

Garden Reports

Heritage Garden of 1812 - Melissa stated the new mulch that the DPW spread this summer has

vastly improved the look and quality of this garden at the Main Street triangle.

Recommendation was made to DPW to fill cobblestone perimeter with a new medium to ease

the safety of weeding on this heavy car traffic area. Melissa also mentioned her love of

decorating the garden with seasonal gnome figures to bring a smile to drivers by.

Mural Park - Marcia reported the interest in adding additional sculptures or permanent

artwork to Mural Park. Marcia and husband Nick Roth donated the large permanent metal

“Children’s Sculpture” in Mural Park

Memory Garden – Ramona stated that a major weeding occurred this year to prevent over

crowding of the existing perennials. Ramona also commented on the wonderful gift of dahlias

tubers from committee member Myra Lenz. Ramona mentioned she dug up the dahlias tubers

this fall to be planted in the spring. She also detailed her love of decorating Memory Garden

during the 4 seasons and made a new winter holiday display to compliment Myra Lenz’s hand

made whimsical penguins.

Top of the Glen Garden – Elise reported additional thinning out is needed. New pine trees were

added this year to line garden path on fence border. Trees planted by Glen Park Joint Board.

GARDEN WALK 2023 – Dian Lewin

Dian announced the 20 th Anniversary Garden Walk would take place July 15 and July 16. The

Main Street tent will be manned by committee members from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm this year.

She and Deb Habes are the Co Chairs this year. She stated Deb and her are stepping down from

chairmanship after this year's Garden Walk. In order to continue, we need new chairs and sub-

committee chairs for different aspects of organization. Dian and Deb are willing to work with

new people this year to learn the ropes of the process.

Questions from the visiting gardeners were asked on how we get new garden hosts. Dian

detailed various methods used over the years.

2023 Slated Priority Purchases with GW Raised funds from donations

A general discussion took place for purchasing metal arbors, mural plaque, garden signage slate

plant markers & garden art for Mural Park.

Other Business:

- Dian asked Mary about new budget. Mary stated she was putting the new budget in

process and will be working with Ben at DPW.

- Dian verified Beautification Members would attend Pat Earing's memorial service as a

group this Saturday February 18 th at 1:30pm at Amigone Funeral Home on Sheridan &

Hopkins.

- New Beautification Committee applications were handed out to all in attendance and

collected by Dian Lewin.

Dian announced the next meeting would take place on Tuesday March 14th at 1:00 pm in the

Conference Room at Village Hall, 5565 Main Street.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm

Minutes respectively submitted by Melissa Warner