

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES February 26, 2013

PRESENT: Brian Kulpa, Elisa Fila, Edie Malizia, Dona Bronkie, Deb Habes,
Paula Hinz, Marcia Roth, Myra Lenz

ABSENT: Catherine Zimmerman, Basil Piazza, Sheryl Duquette

Meeting commenced at 6:30 pm in Village Hall.

Main/Evans Triangle Garden (aka Garden of 1812): Plans for the design of this garden as presented by Joy Kuebler, Landscape Architect, were discussed in depth. The Committee was impressed with the new design as it will be representative of the Village landscape as it might have looked at the time of the War of 1812. This new design will reflect the important role the Village played in the war, as this garden is located in the exact area used as a U.S Army garrison at that historic time. It also ties in with the 200th Anniversary of the burning of Buffalo and the refuge our village offered to hundreds of the City's fleeing residents.

It must be said that the intent of the new design is not to "Disney-fy" the garden, but rather return the plot of land to a more gentle and natural look that offers motorists a place to rest their glance as they sit at the traffic light and pedestrians a place to catch their breath while out running, walking or biking. Much like a "pocket park", the garden will be a spot to make a quick phone call while sitting beside the gentle flowing water from the **water feature**. This water feature will incorporate elements of Glen Falls by using stepped natural stone native to the Onondaga Escarpment. The words "Village of Williamsville" will be carved into the terraced rock of the waterfall, thus lending a "sense of place" to all who enter our community. Rustic hewn lumber benches, much like ones used at the Army encampment, will provide a place to sit. Three short sections of rustic split rails will act as a feature. These will not enclose the garden but rather they will provide a hint of structure to the space, much like a pasture. A 15 star U.S. flag (the number of states at the time of the War of 1812) will fly from the existing flag pole.

The new design and plantings will require far less maintenance than the hundreds of annual flowers that were heretofore planted year after year. Plant selection was recommended by the Committee from a Plant Palette, provided by Joy Kuebler based on sustainability of plantings in this "hostile" location.

From the list, the following plants were **suggested** by the committee members. Let it be said that the final selection will be up to Ms. Kuebler, as she is the professional landscape architect of the plan.

Main/Evans Triangle (aka Garden of 1812)

TREES: (1) Princeton Elm (3"- 4" in caliber), (1) Black Gum and (1) Kousa Dog Wood.

GRASSES: Pennsylvania Sedge, Prairie Dropseed, Purple LoveGrass, KarleyRose, Fountain Grass, Dwarf Fountain Grass, Maiden Grass and maybe adding Blue Fescue.

PERRENIALS: Butterfly Weed(milkweed), Moonbeam Coreopsis, Golden rod(short),Walkers Low Catmint, Russian Sage, Grape Hyacinth, Wholly Thyme, Poppy, Obedient plant, Blue Fortune Hyssop, Liatris Blazing star, Purple Cone Flower and Amemone. We thought a purple and yellow summer scheme would be nice.

Seasonal Plantings – Over time, spring bulbs will be naturalized among the beds and boulders and colorful mums will be inserted in various spots in the fall to provide seasonal color.

Planting Plan – The committee requests that Ms. Kuebler provide a detailed planting schematic of plants and their location in the garden. The committee, along with other volunteers, will provide the labor for actual planting of the plants.

HANGING BASKETS: Decided to only hang them on the bridge (6), need to assure the current poles are strong enough to hold the weight. Brian and Basil will follow up with DPW's Ken Kostowniak to check this out. Ken might be able to approximate the weight of a planted basket when watered so as to better ascertain the strength of the metal poles/hooks on the bridge. Will ask Joy to recommend plants for baskets. Large, colorful, spilling plants are needed. Will watering be an issue? Ask Ken.

Placement of the baskets on the bridge would create a "sense of place" by drawing the eye up and serving to highlight the bridge, as it is a bridge over which thousands of cars pass each day. Many drivers do not event know they are crossing over Ellicott Creek and the very precipice of Glen Falls.

Hanging flower baskets on Main Street lamp poles? – In the past we have hung 30 baskets along Main Street. Plants have lasted only until mid-July and have needed to be removed for their lack-luster performance, due to wind, fumes and heat. Committee members decided that unless baskets can be watered 7 days a week, there is no sense in spending the money on them. This year, it was

decided to recommend the redirection of these funds to the re-design of the Triangle Garden and the planting of perennials in the Village garden beds that will last for many years to come. The cost of plants and watering of 6 baskets on the Bridge will be far less than the 30 on the lamp poles.

OTHER VILLAGE GARDENS: Brian would like to see a cohesive look in the village's other gardens and landscapes throughout the commercial corridor.

It was decided to carry thru the idea of native grasses and other perennials as follows:

- Village Hall (front bed) – native grasses.
- Village Hall Patio – 4 pots with tall grass and sweet potato vines. Wooden flower boxes – trailing sweet potato and vinca with trailing petunias
- Meeting House (at base of building) – Already planted with perennials last year.
- Meeting House around the ground sign – Native grasses
- Island Park – Native grasses and flowering perennials. Very few if any need be purchased.
- Garrison Park Memory Garden – 1 flat impatiens?
- Garrison Park Gazebo – All perennials – No need for purchasing more.
- Under Park Signs – Native grasses

Beautification Guide - Brian Kulpa shared his vision for a comprehensive Beautification Guide to the entire commercial corridor, much like the recently adopted Design Standards for building and site plans in the M-U District. This guide would provide acceptable plantings and landscape design guidelines to commercial developers.

SPRING STREET: Mayor Kulpa shared plans for this, including “purifying” the runoff with swills and rain garden plants and grasses.

10th Anniversary VILLAGE GARDEN WALK: Will be held Saturday, July 20th, 10am to 4pm. (Town of Amherst will also hold their garden walk on the same day.) Creative ideas and volunteers are being sought. Our GW will once

again be part of the National Garden Festival, of which Garden Walk Buffalo is a part of. Plan is to include the village merchants and restaurants in the day's activities. Restaurants will offer garden-themed menus and libations (eg. Flower Power Hour at the Irishman Pub); merchants will offer special sales. There will be a Garden Talk at the Meeting House given by Mischler's Greenhouses and sponsored by the Meeting House Committee. The Welcome Tent will be located on the front lawn of Village Hall, where free guide maps will be available, along with water for purchase, raffle tickets for a basket of WBA goodies, etc. The goal is to engage as many residents and businesses as possible and get them to invest in this popular summer event. Garden of 1812 will be a focal point. Library Pocket Park...Creative ideas are being sought, perhaps including a scavenger hunt, prizes, etc.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 7th, at 6:30 in Village Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marcia Roth, Chair