

Village of Williamsville
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

Meeting commenced: 6:30 PM

Members Present: Basil Piazza (Trustee), Brian Kulpa (Mayor), Marcia Roth (Chairperson), Deb Habes, Catherine Zimmerman, Myra Lenz, Elisa Fila, Dona Bronkie, Sheryl Duquette, Elizabeth Gregg, Edna Czyz, Paula Hinz.

Members Absent: Edie Malizia, Stacie Lutsic

Introduction and Welcome to new members.

Discussion Topics:

- Adopt a Garden Form** reviewed. Edna Czyz signed herself up for Glen Park which if the garden most in need of help. All members thought this was a much needed re-structuring of how we plant and maintain the public gardens.
- **Glen Park** - Sheryl Duquette inquired about Glen Ave side of park. Asked who plants and maintains? Our own member Elise Fila tends and maintains the circle garden by handicap parking lot on Glen Ave. all by herself. It is very challenging since there is no source of watering there. She has planted mainly drought tolerant plants there through the years and this year it was spectacular. Sheryl has seen Bob Krieter working there and will talk with him about working on needed improvements. More volunteers are need who will attend to the many areas in need of maintenance at Glen Park. DPW did a great job in July cutting the overgrown vegetation back and opening up the views throughout the park, which improved both the safety and aesthetics of Glen Park. It was hoped that this type of cutting back could be done on a regular basis and not just for the Glen Park Festival. Nobody knew what the Smallwood or Williamsville Garden Club supposedly does in the park. If anyone can find out, please us know. We don't see clear evidence of another garden group working there. Who maintains the Rotary Circle? Beautification members weed it when they can. Due to small number of volunteers, Beautification Comm. can only plant/maintain the Pathway Garden from Main Street as far as the Rotary Garden. Irrigation has been installed along the pathway and has been hugely helpful in making this garden the much admired jewel that it has recently become.
 - **Meeting House**. Elizabeth inquired about the Meeting House garden's lack of color or flowers this year. Marcia Roth explained the involvement of the Forest Stream Garden Club, the anticipated construction of new sidewalks and parking lot/driveway this year, and plans for a perennial herb garden once construction is completed. Also noted were several non-working exterior lights on the building. Basil Piazza will resolve.
 - **Planting of Spring Bulbs**. 1812 Garden. Russell's has Grape Hyacinths he recommends planting in Nov. Deb will order and a planting date will be scheduled and communicated to members. Possibility of planting daffodil and tulip bulbs in VH and 1812 Gardens.

- **Evaluation of Hanging Baskets on Bridge**...mixed reviews; overall difficult to maintain; watering is the biggest issue. Basil to talk with DPW about frequency. Need to research more drought tolerant, southwestern-style plants. Grasses and dragon begonias were suggested. Will discuss further next meeting.
- **Garden Maintenance.** Catherine Zimmerman suggested scheduled times to work on Gardens, (bi monthly). Edna Czyz will make a schedule and signage (using GW logo) will be posted at the various gardens inviting passersby and other volunteers to join the "party".
- **Removal of RR Ties from signs at Wms HS.** Basil Piazza will discuss with Ken at DPW.
- **Walk Main Street.** Personally written thank you notes will be sent to those Main Street businesses that beautified their frontages, including maintenance of the right of way. Will meet at M. Roth's, Fri at 4:00 PM to write notes.
- **"You've Been Bloomed" Concept** - Deb Habes described the concept based on the very successful "Buffalo in Bloom" model. Deb proposes to combine the talents and resources of the WBA Community Enhancement Committee with Beautification Committee on this venture, which will be aimed solely at Main Street businesses this year. It will tie in with the Picture Main Street Initiative as it will serve as positive re-enforcement to those businesses that take pride in their frontages by hanging baskets of flowers, planting window boxes and or pots and/or garden beds at their places of business. Need to develop criteria and signage. Will discuss further next meeting.
- **Circular Garden at IP.** Current design is being trampled and there is no water available. Myra Lenz presented several artistic schematics to consider. Basil Piazza to share with DPW.
- **Garden Walk.** Deb Habes presented ideas on what worked and what didn't. Further discussion in coming months. Important to involve Committees (Beautification, G. W., WBA) to work together.
- **Discussed potential informal "Sit In" (aka flash mob)** by friends and neighbors at the Garden of 1812. People need to know that the garden/pocket park is there for people to rest and enjoy. A similar flash mob event could be staged at the Volunteer Pocket Park as well. The log benches are now installed there and begging for pedestrians to sit and take a load off! They need to know the benches are there to be used by people! More discussion will follow.
- **End of Season Garden Clean Up.** Each Garden Group will set a date for their respective Gardens. Email to all Committee Members.
- **Web Site.** Brian Kulpa discussed the design of a new Village web site that will be more interactive and user friendly.

NEXT MEETING: TUES., OCTOBER, 8, 2013 at VH

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Meeting notes: Dona Bronkie

Meeting minutes: Marcia Roth