



BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2014

"It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season."

— *Kate Morton, [The Forgotten Garden](#)*

Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM

Present: E. Fila, E. Malizia, E. Czyz, D. Habes, M. Lenz

Absent: P. Hinz, S. Duquette, E. Gregg, D. Bronkie, S. Lutsic, B. Piazza, B. Kulpa, C. Zimmerman, M. Roth

1. Library Gala Basket: *Thank you* to all who donated items towards the Beautification Committee gift basket for the Library Gala Fundraiser held on Feb. 7th. More than \$20,000 was raised and the recently cut library hours have already been restored to the Williamsville Branch schedule.



2. April 10th, at 7:00pm – "Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show"

- Garden Talk to be given by international garden expert Mike Shadrack at Meeting House. Edna shared the latest plans. Deb created a flier. Tickets are \$5 with proceeds to benefit the restoration of the Meeting House Gardens, primarily for a period appropriate curved stone garden bench for placement between the tree and the front stoop. Tickets will be on sale at Village Hall and at the door. Large crowd expected. Paid ticket will include a chance for garden related donated door prizes – Door Prize - Edna will ask Mike if he would donate an autographed copy of one of his books. Deb will ask Frank Mischler for a donation also. Edie volunteered to package up the door prize.

Publicity – Edie will share flier with Master Gardeners, Smallwood Garden Club, Sally Cunningham. Mike Sharack will share with AAA and Botanical Gardens and on his website. Elise will share with WNY Gardening Blog; Deb will share with Susan Martin at Buffalo News and all other outlets available.

Fliers – Deb will complete the final flier and get it out to members ASAP for distribution. Printed fliers need to be distributed to retail/businesses along Main Street. ¼ sheet fliers will also be printed. Need committee members to distribute them to businesses along Main St.

Ticket Table – Night of – Need volunteers to man it

Set up/clean up – Need volunteers

Thanks to Edna for taking this on.



3. Garden Walk – Beautification Committee + WBA = First meeting is March 27th at 6:30pm at Village Hall. Invite past garden hosts.

Sat. July 19th. Residents + businesses in the loop. Comprehensive program. "It's a Village-wide Garden Party!" theme. "Make it Green" by encouraging biking and walking. Myra suggested giving a GW logo sign to each resident who signs up his garden and participates in the Garden Walk. They would keep it and be encouraged to display it. Great idea! This would reward those villagers who take the time and interest to participate by displaying their gardens, without which, there would be no garden walk! Deb will ask her daughter for help in sign design aspect. More to follow.



3. A Village in Bloom Project - Beautification Committee + WBA. Will need separate Committees to accomplish this. Deb will kick off with WBA Directors meeting on March 19th. Seeking volunteers from residents to businesses. Tie-in Main Street businesses with Garden Walk. Encourage and reward Main Street business owners to beautify their frontages with hanging baskets, window boxes, patio pots, etc. We want to connect the dots and the petals between our residents' beautiful gardens, our municipal gardens and our Main Street business' pots and planters. Design of a sign was discussed and Deb shared some suggestions. Needs more work. Need to order the plastic sign stakes. Think about a Mascot for Garden Walk – Maybe a Billiken or a "golden" garden gnome?

4. Hanging Baskets on Main Street Bridge – Daily watering not possible + poor to non-existent past survival rate of plants makes baskets on the bridge not fiscally practical. Are there other means of highlighting the Bridge, other than hanging baskets? Visual identification of Ellicott Creek Main Street Bridge was considered by committee to be of very high importance. Bridge needs to be recognized as offering a sense of "place" to motorists and pedestrians. The committee liked the strings of LED lights that are strung during the holidays on the bridge. Could they stay up throughout the year? As a suggestion for a long range plan, perhaps old-fashioned lamp posts could be installed, 3 on each side of the bridge, that would give a sense of visual height and prominence to the bridge. Need something to indicate to thousands of vehicles that they are crossing a waterway of major importance to the history of the village.

5. Master Gardener Series: E. Malizia shared fliers of another series of classes that will be presented thru the Town of Amherst by Master www.amherstyouthandrec.org. She will forward to Deb who will share them with the committee.

6. 1812 Heritage Garden - DPW assures us that water feature should be up and running; plant ID markers need to be completed (Myra and anyone else to help her?). Ask Joy Kuebler for splits of her poppies. Spring bulbs (we planted 1,500 bulbs in the fall) should be fantastic this year. Will check to see what plants survived the wicked winter conditions.

Spring Tasks for 1812 Heritage Garden by Beautification Members:

1. All plants must be cut back and cleaned up to make way for new growth.
2. Cigarette butts and other trash needs to be raked up and cleaned up.
3. Plant ID markers – Made and placed
4. Donations of perennial splits from members' gardens added
5. Get poppies from Joy K. to plant
6. Compost added around all plants
7. Continued public education on historic meaning of this Heritage Garden

7. Library Pocket Park – Discussion of recent meeting held regarding upcoming suggestions for pocket park design. A possible fundraiser might be held in the spring to raise funds for the pocket park. Details will be shared once known.

8. Garrison Park - Thin out the hostas and transplant to other gardens.

9. Village Hall - 4 pots and window box - Use tall grasses in middle and fillers around.

10. Glen Park Pathway Garden - C Zimmerman submitted an estimated budget of about \$100 for purchase of some annuals for that garden. It was forwarded to Trustee Piazza. Sprinkler system has been installed there.

11. Meeting House – Work towards purchase of period appropriate stone bench and Victorian urn planters with funds raised at Chelsea Flower Show Talk.

Important Upcoming Dates

Thursday, March 27th, 6:30pm – Village Hall – Garden Walk 2014 Kick-off meeting

April 10th – “Behind the Scenes at Chelsea Flower Show”. 7pm. Meeting House.

Saturday, April 26th at 9:30am - Garden Walk-about and Cleanup Day

Meet at IP Bridge to inspect gardens and do garden cleanup. Volunteers invited. Bring own tools and come prepared to work and get dirty! Trash bags will be provided.

Saturday, May 17th – Work in gardens day. As per your adopted gardens. Please contact each other to set up your own garden maintenance schedules.

After June 1st – Village Hall pots and window boxes will be planted.

Saturday, June 28th – 2 teams of Beautification members hit Main Street to “Bloom” businesses who have hit the mark as to adding plantings, pots, baskets, and maintaining weed-free properties and their Main Street right-of-way. Awards to be announced on July 19th: Mayor’s Choice Award, People’s Choice Award, etc. Maybe award them a “Golden Garden Gnome” for bragging rights.

Saturday, July 19th – Village Garden Walk 2014. 10am – 4pm. Welcome Tent at Village Hall front lawn.

Resources:

www.Facebook.com/gardenwalkwilliamsville #gardenwalkWMSVL www.nationalgardenfestival.com

Buffalo-NiagaraGardening.com www.village.williamsville.ny.us

www.smugcreekgardens.com

D. Habes