

Village Green Committee
Monday, June 4, 2018 10AM at the Library

Minutes

Attending: Felicia Sartell, Robin Downes, Denise Collette, Carol Mamczak, Connie Kieley, Peggy Cournoyer, Honey Hastings, Kathy Fedorka for discussion of item 7. Absent: Gail Cromwell

1. Minutes of last meeting were discussed. A few members had notes, but no official minutes. There was discussion around making an increased effort to have published agendas and draft minutes posted in a timely manner.

2. Connie provided printed copies of the treasurer's report showing an account balance of \$4391.68. It detailed King Farm expenditure, Ladies Aide donation and Kieley payment for plants. It was mentioned that receipts for two separate mulch purchases have not been given to the trustees yet. Connie purchased mulch for town offices and Felicia purchased mulch for areas in town. They will follow up. Robin offered to compose a thank-you note to the Ladies' Aide group. (action items)

3. All were in agreement that spring planting this year was very successful and the plants look great. It was agreed that shopping earlier as was done this year allows for a much better selection and we can get the plants and colors we want. It was suggested we plan to shop before Mothers' Day in the future.

4. Discussion took place regarding the plan to swear in all members of the committee as suggested by the Select Board in response to Primex recommendation. All were agreeable to that suggestion but have objected to the possibility of background checks, particularly if members were responsible for paying for them.

5. Felicia presented a list of volunteers for summer watering and accepted offers from committee members to fill in some of the empty weeks. She will send reminders to volunteers. (action item)

6. The former geranium bed between the chapel and town hall was discussed. Although an effort was made last year to seed it back to lawn, most of the seeds failed to sprout and it has been filled in with weeds. It was felt that the lack of daily watering after seeding contributed to the result. Connie will see what John recommends. There was discussion about planters and what to use to replace the wooden boxes as well as possibly expand to the town hall area. All will research self-watering systems, container mixes and note observations of other plantings by classic buildings. (action item)

7. The problem lawn area near the library side entrance was viewed. Kathy described how the section is excavated every couple of years for utility maintenance, so it has been difficult to get anything to grow. The area is hot, sandy and slightly sloped. Various ground covers such as

Creeping Jenny, Thyme and Vinca were discussed as well as the possibility of mulching, using stepping stones, gravel. Robin will research groundcovers. Carol offered some Ajuga and it was agreed to do a test planting this year. She will coordinate with Kathy and Robin. (action items)

8. There was discussion of the VGC taking over the two triangle gardens, 45 and Hadley, Memorial Drive by the ballfield. Pros and cons were offered, but no motion at this time. Honey described what is planted and what is needed in the triangle by 45. Carol and Felicia will meet with Honey to weed the 45 and Hadley triangle. It was mentioned that Gail currently cares for the other triangle.

9. Weeding needs to be done at the municipal building and in front of the historical society. Honey said she would cover them if someone would help with the triangle. See previous item. Of special concern is the invasive Black Swallow-wort that needs to be removed.

10. Harvest Festival date has been set for 9/23/18. It was suggested and agreed that we could do a press release for VGC given lack of publicity for HF recently. It was suggested that Elizabeth Crocker could also cover it in her column. Items for sale will include the traditional beans, cornbread, brownies, merchandise. Honey asked about selling t-shirts again. New shirts and totes need to be purchased since little is left in storage. Carol made a motion to proceed with this sale, seconded by Connie and voted in the affirmative by all members. Connie offered to research ideas and cost for new t-shirts and totes. (action item)

11. The next VGC committee meeting will take place Monday, July 23, 2018 at 10:30 AM in the library.

The meeting concluded at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak

Action items:

Felicia, Connie – receipts for mulch to trustees

Robin – thank-you to Ladies' Aide

Felicia – send reminders to volunteers for watering

Connie – check with John regarding recommendations for the lawn area in former geranium bed

Robin – research groundcovers

Carol – provide Ajuga and coordinate with Kathy and Robin for planting

Connie – research t-shirt and tote options

Approved 8/7/18 with the addition of the current account balance in the treasurer's report.