

Village Green Committee
Monday, October 21, 2019, 9:30 AM at the Town Hall Annex

Minutes

Attending: Gail Cromwell, Felicia Sartell, Connie Kieley, Carol Mamczak, Robin Downes, Honey Hastings, Peggy Cournoyer, Denise Collette Absent: Matt Cabana, Kathy Fedorka

Gail called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Minutes of 9/30/19 – Connie suggested amending the paragraph about the Harvest Festival to read, “...much of it coming from the sale of Gail’s lavender and the beans.” because the raffle was not as successful as hoped. All agreed. **Motion by Gail, seconded by Robin to approve the amended minutes. All in favor.**

A question was asked about any fall 2019 fundraisers. Honey suggested moving that discussion to a later time. Gail stated that the committee’s priority is to put together a solid request to present to the Select Board instead of fundraising at this time. Gail noted that the VGC will be on the Select Board agenda for tomorrow night.

Connie distributed copies of the current treasurer’s report showing a balance of \$4,247.09. The VGC has been awarded a \$1000. grant by the 250th Anniversary Fund, and that check is expected to be in the account next week. The committee thanked Connie for her hard work in pulling together the application.

Connie suggested thank-you notes to two Harvest Festival contributors. (action item)

Gail introduced that main topic of today’s meeting – reviewing the current Mission Statement that was approved by the Select Board in 2012 and discussing how the VGC can accomplish it. She suggested the committee focus on the budget and use Connie’s list of assumptions to guide our discussion. Felicia reviewed VGC history and stated that it was originally set up to be self-funding. Many agreed that the VGC is a bigger group and the needs of the town have changed. Gail reviewed town budget lines under Government Buildings and Land and demonstrated how town needs and VGC needs could be accommodated there. There was discussion about using this approach or requesting a separate VGC line item to ensure our money would not be used on other projects. This is something the Budget Committee can handle.

Discussion centered on who and how the seasonal and weekly care of gardens can be done effectively and efficiently. These include trees on the common, library garden collaboration, town hall annex garden collaboration, QM triangle garden, municipal building garden and planters, veterans’ memorial and summer watering of annuals and perennials. Mulching, fertilizing, pruning, watering and weeding are needed throughout the growing season.

Motion by Honey, seconded by Denise, to accept the House By the Side of the Road proposal to supply seasonal plants at no charge in containers that we purchase from them at a cost up to \$150. for two containers. Discussion that this would be good to try for one year. All in favor. Gail will tell Paul. The containers will be located at the municipal building. VGC is happy to support an initiative suggested by a community member. (action item)

Discussion continued around a budget proposal that in addition to town volunteers would include an additional hire, contractor or service company to support watering and weeding. Concern was raised

regarding all the other things contributing to the likely rise in Temple taxes. Gail stated, "If we want the town to look nice, this is what we have to do!" We looked at what could be considered responsibilities of the highway department and acknowledged that they were short staffed this summer. Weed whacking and similar maintenance on town locations was discussed. We agreed that the Select Board needs to be made aware of deteriorating fences and benches on the common.

A new document that takes today's discussion into consideration will be composed by Gail and Connie to be presented to the Select Board at tomorrow's meeting. The proposal will include a budget request and justification for \$5000. Gail, Connie, Honey, Carol and possibly Robin will attend the Select Board meeting. (action items)

The VGC delegated Robin to initiate a conversation with Kent from the highway department to be followed by a meeting to discuss the findings of the soil tests with recommendations for fertilizing the common. Carol will request that Paul forward the results to Kent. (action items)

Robin needed to leave at 10:30.

Connie will write a note to the library trustees and express the VGC interest in collaborating on the library front garden upgrade focused on simplification for ease of maintenance. (action item)

The House By the Side of the Road fundraiser was discussed again. There was consensus that the VGC will look at doing it again in spring 2020.

Wreaths and bows – Robin purchased them last year at House. **Motion by Connie and seconded by ? to approve up to \$200. for the purchase of wreaths and bows according to Robin's list. All in favor.** Several members offered to assist with pick-up and hanging of the wreaths. The exact date is to be determined, but it will occur either Friday, Saturday or Sunday after Thanksgiving. The artificial wreaths will also be hung on the common entrances at that time. Felicia would like assistance with that. (action item)

Next meeting date TBD.

At 10:45 Honey moved to adjourn, seconded by Denise. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak
VGC Secretary

Discussion Starter Document

Mission Statement: The Village Green Committee's (VGC) mission is to support and carry out projects, at the committee's discretion, focusing on the maintenance, improvement, repair, and beautification of town-owned green areas in the Town of Temple. (Mission statement approved by SB in 2012 making us a Town Committee.

How can we most effectively carry out our mission? I have broken down this doc into areas we care about and who would pay. This concept needs a lot discussion as well as associated costs assigned.

SB and BAC would both need to be in support conceptually as well as financially.

Assumptions for discussion:

1. *We are willing to do some fundraising and some maintenance such as planting annuals & watering.*
 2. *We need the Town to share the maintenance and associated costs.*
 3. *We would like a discussion and agreement with the Highway Dept. as to areas where their help is essential.*
 4. *Where applicable we would prepare estimated costs.*
 5. *We would take on the management of expending not only our Trust funds but also Town VGC line item funds.*
 6. *We would be responsible for volunteers or suggesting people and/or companies for hire to complete the necessary jobs.*
 7. *We would talk to the SB and then the BAC.*
- **VGC Budget: Trust Fund: Fundraising or Grants : \$500**
 - New and/or replacement shrubbery, trees, and plants (annuals and/or perennials)
 - Christmas Wreaths
 - Education
 - **VGC Town Budget line item**

While some work could be accomplished by volunteers the focus would be on hiring a new town employee, contractor and/or a service company paid for out the VGC town budget line item. Question: Would the VGC assist in the hiring decision and who would supervise?

- Seasonal & Weekly Care: Gardens
 - Common –Trees: Yearly: Pruning, Compost & Mulch: **\$2000**
 - Library – Gardens: collaboration Library
 - Yearly – Mulch: **\$50**
 - Weekly – Weeding & Watering

- Town Hall Annex Garden: Modification: collaboration with TTHAC
 - Yearly – Mulch: \$50
 - Weekly – Weeding & water during drought
- QM Triangle: VGC – needs to be redesigned
 - Yearly – Mulch \$100
 - Weekly – Weeding
- Municipal Building Garden and planters?: VGC
 - Yearly – Mulch \$100
 - Weekly – Weeding & water during drought
- Veterans’ Memorial
 - Weekly – Weeding & Watering
- Summer watering of annuals & perennials
 - Weekly – Weeding & Watering
- Weeding of all Gardens: \$2500
- TOTAL: \$4,800
- Common Hardscape on recommendation of VGC and Highway Dept.:
 - Fence – Repair & Painting Last Painted in 2014: \$1875
 - Benches & Picnic tables – Repair, Painting and/or replacement
- **Highway Dept. Budget:**
 - Common – Grass: Yearly: Aerate, Over seeding, Fertilization
 - Buildings:
 - Town Hall: weeding stone drip edge
 - Municipal Building: weeding stone drip edge, weed whacking sides and rear of building
 - Monuments – weeding stones surrounding