**Beautification Committee Meeting**

**February 18, 2020**

Attendees: Jim, Judy, Rick, Jason, Kat

* Called to order at 6:31
* January minutes approved
* Treasurer Report - Jason
1. Sent an email requesting any outstanding bills be sent to him, as the 19-20 budget was ending
2. Jason will run down where to send the “Toys for Tots” $100 check in Fedders names.
* **Marion Tribute.** We voted to plant hardy rose bushes in the Village Green across from town hall.
* **Flower Beds.** We want to put a lot more flowers in all our beds, maybe even coming up with a color theme. That should be reflected in our budgeting. Jim and Rick will take responsibility for the King House beds.
* **Hose.** The hose is at Darryl’s.
* **Bridge Boxes.** They do need to be replaced, but we will try to nurse them through this year. All members need to explore alternative materials/composites that are available in stores, such as Home Depot, etc. We need to measure the boxes so we know what size to look for. Would Bernie be able to build them? Who could contact him about it?
* **Front Lawn.** Hopefully, it will be grassy, what with all the seed and fertilizer we put on it. However, we will monitor it and determine what to do this summer.
* **New Members.** We need new members desperately, what with a few of us aging and Cookie leaving. There is a lot of maintenance needed. SOMEONE will be at the town meeting with a “Beautification” sign and try to recruit people. Jim will buy some seed packets to hand out to attract people. (At Agway today, packets of a few flowers were $1.79 and $1.99). We need to add a note on who to contact. Recruit at Pumpkin Palozza and other town events. Any member suggestions? We also need to add a contact and phone number to our signs for people to contact if interested. Another idea was to contact people who have just moved to town, maybe give them a flower.
* **2020 Project Possibilities:**
1. Town Hall stone bench. It needs to be higher. Rick will talk with Tom again about somehow raising it. Could we put another block on top of the one there?
2. Plant flowers along cemetery wall on Pleasant Street. We discussed this, but thought with the other beds we have, do we really need new ones, especially this size?
3. Boat launch for Mill Pond. We need to verify that there is a boat launch area on the west side of the house, in New Ipswich.
4. Plant a shade tree at pool. We discussed, but aren’t sure whether it is a good idea. Something without leaves that would give shade? A Willow tree?
5. Village Green retaining wall. Maybe we could build a retaining wall to create less slope. Jim suggested this, but it would take some analysis as to what would be needed and the expense.
6. Ice Cream Social. Let’s not forget this idea for raising some money and attracting people to town hall.
7. Riverside Park. Is it time to get serious about this? Rick said AARP just announced that towns could apply for a grant for things like parks. Due by April 1. Any interest?
* **Next meeting Feb. 18, 6:30, Library**
* Adjourned at 7:50.

Rick Miller

2/18/20