

Water Street Land Use Committee

January 5, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Jamaica Town Offices

Attending: Jacki Brown, Chair; Kate Ullman, Selectboard Liaison; Erica Bowman; Norma O'Brien; Anne Connor (recording)

Resignation: Norma O'Brien is resigning from the committee due to personal commitments. The committee is open to new members.

Public Concern: Norma says there are springs on the O'Brien property, rather than a dug well. There is a lot of runoff from the town's property. She is concerned about potential contamination from our planned soil amendments (manure, nutrients). It's possible these amendments will wash into the springs and contaminate them. The O'Briens will monitor the wells. Erica Bowman noted that we could use a silt fence (straw bales) if needed to prevent runoff. However, the land is flat, with a large vegetative buffer, so runoff is unlikely. Erica will review the existing topographic information to assess risk. Norma can get drinking water tests free from the Vermont department of state. We will need to test the water shortly before we apply the manure. Recommend 2 weeks ahead, so we get results back in time. We will add this step to the timeline.

Motion: The O'Briens' water should be tested before and after any soil amendments. (Water test for E. coli, nutrients.) Moved by Jacki Brown, seconded by Kate Ullman. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Cover the cost of a straw bale silt fence between the ribbons and the O'Brien property, as needed, based on the line of slope. Moved by Anne Connor, seconded by Kate Ullman. Passed unanimously.

Budget Discussion:

- 1,000 feet of hose is about right; the amount budgeted is appropriate.
- Tripods and sprinklers: Best to have three tripods on timers so nobody has to go out and move a tripod or turn the water on and off. This would also prevent overwatering, thus preventing the runoff the O'Briens are concerned about. We budgeted 3 tripods at \$84 each. We need a splitter between them? Erica says timers serve as splitters. **Need to add a timer/splitter to the budget. \$80-100.**
- Estimates for the manure and nutrients are still good. Erica says Tommy Daigneault has a large enough truck to haul the manure, as does John Cravinho. Erica suggested that we should consider Bazin Brothers in Bellows Falls for manure. Jacki is interested in getting it from Taylor Farms but isn't sure if they have enough. Erica noted that we need to consider the cost of trucking as well as the cost of the materials. We need to compare the total costs.
- \$1,500 for 6 flats per ribbon is still good.
- \$1,500 for John Cravinho is still good to do the invasive species removal and the tilling in the ribbon areas.
- Cost to remove knotweed from the stream bank? Ask John Cravinho to give us an estimate, as there may be cost efficiencies if his equipment is already in place.
- Mowing: Town to mow meadow area annually in the fall. Who will mow in the early spring so John can see what he's doing? Erica suggests that weed-whacking might be sufficient.

Timeline:

- We should start a conversation with subcontractors soon. We will meet again in February to focus on that and discuss desired plants.
- We will use a Pinterest board to solicit ideas for flowers from members of the public. We need a way to publicize this opportunity for involvement. **The link to the Pinterest board is:**
<https://pin.it/6aMZRap>
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, February 8 at 5:00 p.m., Town Offices.

Grants and Funding:

- Discussed wording of draft grant proposal to the Vermont Natural Resources Council
- We need to raise about \$1,000 in donations. Project name? Water Street Pollinator Project. Jacki will lead the fundraising effort.

Nonprofit Status

- **Motion:** The committee will not pursue nonprofit status. Moved by Jacki Brown, seconded by Kate Ullman. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 6:15.