

**MINUTES**  
**Water Street Land Use Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 5:00 pm**  
**Tolbert House, 257 Water Street, Jamaica, VT**

**Attending:** Jacki Brown (president), Riley Brown, Erica Bowman, Anne Connor (recording), Kate Ullman (Selectboard liaison).

**Excused:** Chrisman Kearn

**1. Good news:**

- Grants – The Jamaica Community Pollinator Project has been awarded a \$1,000 “seed grant” from the Grassroots Fund. Anne reviewed allowable expenditures from the grant and the funder’s recommendations for future enhancement of the project (such as educational signage). Our Selectboard chair (Jessica Pollack) needs to e-sign a document attesting to the Town’s willingness to accept the grant before we can receive the funds.
- Financial donations – Jacki received a \$500 pledge from an organization called Bee the Change (in Northern Vermont). Their mission includes wildflowers. They funded a pollinator garden in South Londonderry. This is a gift, not a grant (no reporting requirement).
- Manure donation and associated costs – The Schmids have offered to donate six loads of seasoned manure. Erica presented a budget-favorable \$420 bid from Tommy Daigneault to deliver it.

**Motion:** Accept the Schmid donation. Jacki moved; Kate seconded; passed unanimously.

**2. Discuss phase one land preparation**

We discussed a rough outline for contracted and volunteer services.

1. J. Cravinho deals with invasive species
2. Outline the ribbons and rototill them thoroughly. Watch out for former foundations, cement blocks, etc. Clear the soil down three to six inches for the ribbons.
3. Volunteers come with hard rakes to remove roots and rocks – Friday, May 19?
4. Manure delivery
5. Get a machine to spread the manure
6. Rototill again
7. May 20-21 planting days? Public event for volunteers

**3. Review finances**

- We questioned the cost of \$50 to spread manure and cost of \$75 to rototill — these seem low. Erica will double-check.
- Erica said that the flower plugs would probably cost \$3,000, not \$1,500.
- Jacki would like to use the existing shed to store equipment (wheelbarrow, trowels, hose). There might be some costs to clear around it.
- Erica thinks we could get the straw bales donated.

#### 4. Banking update

- The Town of Jamaica is the fiscal sponsor for this project.
- Kate and Jacki will talk with Jessica Pollack about whether we could do this on a *reimbursement basis*. This would be our first choice.
- Jessica Pollack is willing to help us set up an LLC to get an EIN so the Pollinator Project can open a bank account. This would allow us to accept donations and make purchases. However, there are tax implications, including filing taxes and legal liability for the members of the LLC.

#### 5. Presentation to Selectboard:

- Kate and Jacki will talk with Jessica to find out when we can get on the Selectboard agenda. We are aiming for April 24.

#### 6. Publicity:

- Jacki got some coverage for the Pollinator Project in The Shopper and the Front Porch Forum. Other journalists are interested.
- Confirm acreage for Jacki to use talking with reporters: Meadow is 1.34 acres out of about 2.75 acres for the whole lot. Ribbons are about a 10<sup>th</sup> of an acre (4,827 square feet), or about 15% of the meadow. Erica will confirm.

#### 7. School outreach update:

- Riley talked with Susan Clark at the Jamaica Village School. She will give us time with two different age groups (K-2 and 3-5) for presentations and workdays. Two Fridays; flexible on dates. We could use adjacent Fridays for the presentation and the workday.
- Riley is preparing some interactive presentations. He is certified through Project WILD in nature-based education for kids through games and hands-on activities. He has done similar work in Burlington. For example, there's an experiment the kids can do to learn how static charge works (mimics pollen action). Also, a game about how bees get their food.

#### 8. Timeline/next steps:

- **Next meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 5:00 p.m.** – We will discuss the timeline and land preparation so we can lock in dates for the public events. Also, we will have an update on Town's reimbursement model and Selectboard presentation Monday, April 24.
- **Choosing flowers:** Erica will send her suggested list soon (within the next week)
- **Volunteer workdays:** 2 people who read the Front Porch Forum are interested in the volunteer workday. We are aiming for May 21-23 for planting, but will firm up the timetable at our next meeting.

**Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 5:00 p.m., 257 Water Street, Jamaica, VT**