

## **MINUTES: Water Street Land Use Committee**

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Jamaica Town Offices

**Attending:** Jacki Brown (Chair), Kate Ullman (Selectboard liaison), Erica Bowman, Chrisman Kearn, Anne Connor (recording)

**Excused:** Riley Brown

**Guests:** Three volunteers arrived at about 5:30 for a volunteer information session. Carol Cantwell, Maggie Donaldson, and Carly Mautner

Jacki called the meeting to order at 5:10.

1. **Confirm status as a committee of the town government and rules of governance.**
  - a. Jacki acknowledged that the April 11 meeting was not warned (an oversight), so it was not an official meeting, and no decisions were binding. In the future, all meetings will give at least 24 hours of notice. Jacki reviewed the open meeting rules for where and how meetings should be warned.
2. **Update on committee name:** Kate reported that, per the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, we can change the committee's name as long as we don't change the scope of our charge. We will place a request at the May 8 selectboard meeting to change the name to "Jamaica Community Pollinator Project Committee."
3. **Motion: Approve unofficial April 11 meeting notes as recorded. Jacki moved. Kate seconded. Unanimously approved.**
4. **Motion: Ratify all motions discussed at the April 11 meeting so they become official decisions. Jacki moved, Chrisman seconded. Unanimously approved.** The motions are as follows:
  - a. **Motion: Accept Erica's recommendation of types and ratios of flowers to order.**
  - b. **Motion: Approve the full number of flower plugs needed for a total of \$3,000 and commit to fundraising efforts to raise the shortfall (about \$800).**
  - c. **Motion: Use the reimbursement model for purchases, with the Town of Jamaica as fiscal sponsor for purchases approved by the committee.**
  - d. **Motion: Chairperson (Jacki Brown) is authorized to accept, track, and manage donations on behalf of the committee if so needed.**
5. **Initial review of timeline:**
  - a. Erica will send the approved proposal to John Cravinho ASAP. She will also oversee his work. John will mow, remove rocks and rubble, and remove invasive species from the field and the stream bank. Erica will mark the boundaries of the ribbons before he starts.
  - b. Jacki plans to make a resveratrol tincture from one of the knotweed balls removed by John.
  - c. Erica gave an update on the plant list. Current subtotal is about \$2,500 before shipping; boxes and shipping could be \$500, so we're stopping there. Erica asked about how to utilize the town's tax exemption for the purchase.
  - d. We need to dig test pits before Jim Ryan comes to do the tilling to ensure he won't hit hidden foundations.

- e. Place hay bales around the ribbon zone. There has been no progress on obtaining free hay bales. We may need to purchase them.
- f. Tommy Daigneault will truck the manure to the site and dump it in three piles (one for each ribbon).
- g. Jim Ryan will use his equipment to spread and smooth the manure.
- h. Collect soil sample once manure has been mixed in — Anne will do.
- i. We need to mark spots for the compost (weed pile) and small rocks. Erica and Chrisman will do that.
- j. Erica will purchase the hoses and sprinklers.
- k. The committee's presentation to the Selectboard is **May 8**. Jacki will present.
- l. Buy and seed lupines.

**6. Update on Jamaica Village School presentations and involvement.**

- a. Riley's presentation to the JVS students will be on **May 12**.
- b. We will need somebody else to serve as liaison with the kids for their workday, since Riley will be leaving Jamaica on or about May 15.

**5:45 – 6:40: Volunteer Information Meeting**

We welcomed three potential volunteers: Carol Cantwell, Maggie Donaldson, and Carly Mautner.

- **Update on work to date:** Jacki gave a brief history of the project. Started with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene. Jacki ran a pilot project last year to plant some wildflower seeds. The Town formed a committee to figure out what to do with the site. A neighbor is donating water. The Town is providing funding that covers about half the total value of the project. Jacki read a quote by Uli Lorimer that began: "For those of us who care about the natural world, the decision to plant natives in the garden is one of the most important decisions we can make." Jacki showed the picture of where the ribbons will be on the site and explained why we're planting flower plugs (it's faster to see results with plugs than with seeds).
- **Flower selection and timeline:** Erica gave an update. She said the market has changed significantly since the pandemic and it's much harder to get plants. We're buying plugs from a nursery in Pennsylvania that specializes in native plants. They come in large flats. The best we could do is to get the plants to come in mid-June. It's best to have all of them at the same time. A few plants will come in late August (asters).
- **Continue review of timeline.** We reviewed all steps for the benefit of the volunteers.
  - a. Finalize plug order (done - Erica)
  - b. Dig existing plants and pot for rooting (Erica is doing this at home)
  - c. Send proposal to J. Cravinho (done - Erica)
  - d. Purchase lupine seeds (done - Erica)
  - e. Recruit and thank volunteers (in progress - Jacki)
  - f. Contact Jim Ryan (done - Erica)
  - g. Contact Schmids (done - Erica)
  - h. Contact Tommy Daigneault (done - Jacki)
  - i. Create Facebook Event pages (Jacki will do)
  - j. Write press release about volunteer events (Jacki)
  - k. Buy hoses and timer (Erica)
  - l. Make educational signs (Jacki and Anne)
  - m. Ask around for mulch hay (Erica) – how many bales do we need? Erica and Chrisman will calculate it.

- Cut up fallen branches (Carly will look into getting donated services; Kate will look into an arborist donating services)
  - Cut down brambles near the garden shed (Chrisman)
  - **Educational Presentation to JVS – May 12** (Riley)
  - **Project Area Staking – Week of May 21 or 28.** Mark boundaries of ribbons and flag invasives for removal. Also mark the location of the compost pile (Erica and Chrisman)
  - **NOTE: First well-monitoring tests by neighbors should happen at this time (late May) to show that there is no pre-existing contamination before the manure is spread.**
  - **Site Prep and Removal of Invasives:** John Cravinho will mow, remove rocks and rubble, and remove invasive species from the field and the stream bank. This will probably happen the first week in June.
  - **Place Hay Bales – Saturday, June 3.** Do before the manure is spread. (All, with volunteers)
  - Brush mow, remove rocks and rubble, remove invasives (J. Cravinho - contracted)
  - Dig test pits in the ribbons to look for foundations or other hazards that could harm Jim Ryan's equipment. (Committee members)
  - Jim Ryan will till the ribbons.
  - Once the site prep is done, Tommy Daigneault will truck the manure to the site from the Schmid farm and dump it in three piles (one for each ribbon).
  - Jim Ryan will spread and smooth the manure.
  - **Raking Day — Weekend of June 10.** Once the manure is spread, volunteers will rake, smooth, clear and prep. We don't want to leave bare soil too long, or it will grow weeds. (All, with volunteers)
  - Soil test (Anne) after manure is spread
  - Prepare hoses and timer (Chrisman and Jacki)
  - Train volunteers on site prep days (Chrisman)
  - Lay out grid for planting (Erica)
  - Water the plugs when they arrive the week of June 12 (Erica)
  - Seed lupines (Erica)
  - **Planting Day: June 17** (All – with volunteers)
  - **NOTE: The post-manure well-monitoring tests by neighbors can happen any time after the manure is spread. The hay bales are intended to prevent any runoff. Post-testing should be compared with pre-manure tests.**
  - Bring water for volunteers (Jacki)
  - Monitor plugs and weeds (All)
  - Weeding
  - Social media posts (Jacki and Anne)
  - Confirm tools for donation wishlist (Jacki and Erica)
- **Discuss logistics of the first workday:** Date, time, rain date, site needs, publicity, volunteer expectations, progress goals.
    - **Hay Bale Placement Day: June 3** (June 4 rain date).
    - **Raking Day: June 10** (June 11 rain date).
    - **Planting Day: June 17** (June 18 rain date). Flowers are coming the week of June 12, so the first Saturday after that is June 17 (for planting plugs).
    - **Time of day: Morning start, 9:00 to 12:00 each time.** The rain date for a Saturday is Sunday.
    - **Volunteers are asked to bring their own tools and water bottles.**

- **Budget: Hard costs are \$8,544.**
  - **Cash Raised:** We have raised \$7,704. We still need \$840. Carol suggested an “adopt-a-plant” fundraising strategy.
  - **Fiscal Agency:** The new selectboard chair has agreed that the Town will accept donations on behalf of the project. That means Jacki doesn’t have to. Checks should be made out to the Town of Jamaica with “JCPP” for “Jamaica Community Pollinator Project” in the memo section.
  - Erica Bowman is contributing plants worth **\$475**. This is an in-kind donation by **Evernest Designs**.
  - Jim Ryan will bring his equipment to do the tilling and manure spreading. This is an in-kind donation by **Landscape Constructions**. Erica will ask Jim for the estimated value of the gift.
  
- **Adjourned 6:45** (Kate moved; Anne seconded; passed unanimously)

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 5:00.**