

Village of Williamsville
Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025, at 1:00pm, at Village Hall, 5565 Main St.

ATTENDANCE: Members - Deb Habes, Monica Celeste, Ramona Schickling, Vicki Carr, Joyce Haskell, Michele Pagliaroli, Dian Lewin, Jen Licht, Myra Lenz, Edie Malizia, Elise Fila, Marcia Roth, Melissa Warner, Joanne Miechowski, Joyce Haskell, Linda Anscombe, and Trustee Jeff Hahn
Potential Members – Sharon Schwartz, Robin Kashyap, and Cindy Primus (Please note: Cindy, Robin and Sharon were officially appointed by the Village Board on October 26th. Welcome Aboard!)
Absent – Sharon Daniels, Liv Gill, and Sally White

Change in Leadership:

- After many years, Deb is stepping down as the Chairperson for the Beautification Committee
- New Co-Chairs are Melissa Warner and Joanne Miechowski. THANK YOU! (Please note: Melissa and Joanne were officially appointed by the Village Board on October 26th.)

Wrap up of Dedications for Little Free Library and Atomic Kaleidoscope

- 52 Attendees
- 33 Children's Books donated to the Williamsville Library
- Discussed giving a Thank You Gift to Ben, as well as cider and doughnuts for the DPW Crew, for all of their help installing the new Atomic Kaleidoscope and setting up the tents and chairs for the dedication event
- Kaleidoscope dedication event article and photos sent to the Amherst Bee – the article ran in the 10/23/25 paper and posted on the Bee's Facebook page on 10/26/25. Many thanks to Linda for writing this excellent article and submitting it to the Bee!

Garden Reports - Captains' reports & looking ahead

- Heritage Garden of 1812 – Melissa & Joanne
 - Garden clean-up scheduled for Friday, Oct. 17, at 10am to cut down the zinnias and plant the remaining bulbs.
 - Melissa is working on setting up a financial accounting document to track how we spend money in the gardens. Of the \$3,000 allocation for plants, \$648.12 was spent on the 1812 garden. Unsolicited donations will also be tracked. Financial spreadsheet tracking will begin on 1/1/2026.
- Pocket Park's Mural Garden – Marcia & Deb
 - Clean-up was scheduled for Thursday, 10/23, at 10am...but had to be rescheduled to Saturday 10/25, at 10am, due to the rain.
 - Plan to take out the shrubs in the front
 - Will take out the wheelbarrow that has been in the garden for many years. Edie was interested in taking it since there was no place for it in the other gardens.
 - There was some discussion on how to plant the new base of the Kaleidoscope over the holidays and winter months. Ben suggested having a second pot for the base with hens and chickens planted that could be substituted in off seasons when nothing is in bloom. Marcia will look into it.

- Memory Garden – Myra and Ramona
 - Clean-up scheduled for Thursday, October 30th, 10am has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 27, 2025 at 1pm
 - Next year, we will need to spray for deer in the garden to prevent damage. Also, need to purchase bags of “Coop Poop” organic fertilizer
 - Next year, Ramona would like to widen the path and plant zinnias and purple asters

News and Updates

- “Friendsgiving” Lunch – 11/11/25 at 11:30am at Eagle House. Separate checks. **RSVP Deb no later than 11/7.**
- For garden captains, Deb has more leaf bags which can be picked up at her garage before fall clean-ups
- Three new potential members attended the meeting. Deb covered the process for becoming an approved member by the Village Board. An updated list of members with contact information is needed.

Hopes, Dreams and Suggestions for 2026

- Melissa suggested having a “Master Calendar” for all gardens and activities which has “Things To Do” for each month of the year

Last meeting for Deb Habes as Chair

- We celebrated with cake and sparkling water, in crystal glasses!
- Several members shared their thoughts about Deb and the leadership she has provided to the Beautification Committee
- Dian surprised Deb by announcing that the members were going to celebrate Deb at a Traditional Afternoon Tea at the Asa Ransom House on Saturday, November 1st, at 1pm. The event is Dutch treat, and we will split the cost of Deb’s meal. If you haven’t confirmed your reservation, please reach out to Dian Lewin.
- Deb is going to continue to be a member and serve as the Facebook Administrator

Our next regular organizational meeting will be held on February 10, 2026.

▪ Adjourn

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Minutes drafted by Linda Anscombe and approved by Deb Habes, Melissa Warner and Joanne Miechowski

Village of Williamsville Beautification Committee Mission Statement

The Beautification Committee is a group of volunteers appointed by the Village of Williamsville Board of Trustees whose mission is to beautify the Village by designing, planting, and maintaining the following Village of Williamsville public gardens: the Mural Garden in the pocket park at 5565 Main St.; the Memory Garden at Garrison Park, and the Heritage Garden of 1812 at the intersection of Main St. and Evans St. The committee embraces a welcoming, pollinator-friendly, historical, educational, cultural, and artistic environment that nurtures and highlights community pride and engagement. Working as a flexible team, the committee shares garden ideas and knowledge with the community and each other while enjoying the outdoors, forging friendships, and improving the aesthetics of the entrusted public greenspaces.