

Village of Williamsville
Beautification Committee
Meeting Notes

February 10, 2026, at 1:00pm, at Village Hall, 5565 Main St.

ATTENDANCE: Linda Anscombe, Vicki Carr, Elise Fila, Deb Habes, Jeff Hahn (Trustee Liaison), Joyce Haskell, Edie Malizia, Joanne Miechowski, Cynthia Primus, Ramona Schickling, Melissa Warner

Absent: Monica Celeste, Sharon Daniels, Robin Kashyap, Myra Lenz, Liveleen Gill, Dian Lewin, Jennifer Licht, Michele Pagliaroli, Marcia Roth, Sharon Schwartz, Sally White

Guests: Prachee Samant, Community Development Aide and Nick McCormick, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer, stopped in to introduce themselves.

2026 Vision – The following were discussed by the Committee as priorities in 2026:

▪ **Garden Maintenance and Enhancements**

- Melissa reported that she and Joanne met with Jeff to review 2026 garden requests as follows:
 - Compost: Enrich soil by composting gardens prior to mulching
 - Mulch: All three gardens in June after planting
 - Benches: Memory and 1812
 - New Fence: 1812
 - Pea Gravel: 1812
 - Little Library: 1812
 - Bush Removal: Mural
 - Remove all evergreen bushes (They are overgrown and unsightly.)
 - Remove small dead butterfly bush at the intersection of the PP's main walkway and the Library's north sidewalk entrance
 - Possibly remove Boxwoods
- Notes:
 - Jeff will liaise with Ben about the requests.
 - Compost: Garden Captains are asked to let Melissa or Joanne know if they would like compost and how much. Vicki and Linda cautioned that good quality compost is important, as some compost may bring weeds with it. Vicki recommended Black Kow.
 - It is planned that benches will be artistically painted along with the utility box in 1812.
 - With the upcoming 250th anniversary of the US, Linda mentioned that some nurseries will be carrying a greater variety of red, white and blue flowers this spring, and asked if the Committee has any special plans for the anniversary. Garden captains made the following suggestions for displaying a red, white and blue theme in the gardens: Decorating the maypole in Memory, creating an appropriate Kaleidoscope display in Mural, and decorating in 1812 with some bunting.

▪ **Community Engagement and New Member Recruitment**

- Community Events: Possible ideas that were suggested:
 - Daisy Girl Scouts Planting at Mural Garden (Deb has a group interested in this)
 - Children's book reading event at Memory (similar to the Peter Rabbit event a couple of years ago)
 - Possible event in conjunction with Amherst Garden Walk, e.g., Middle School concert in Mural (Melissa has a contact at Mill Middle)
 - An art event: Unveiling of Myra's painting in Memory; an "Artist in the Garden" or "Come and Paint" event in Mural Garden, etc.

- Community Engagement: Along with participating in events, engaging the community to assist in the gardens will be a priority. The following suggestions were made:
 - Reach out Williamsville South for students who are looking to fulfill their community service hours and to identify if students do any larger service based projects. Melissa will reach out to Jen as she has a contact there and successfully recruited helpful students for us last year. Melissa also suggested that Christian Academy be contacted.
 - Committee Members were asked for any other suggestions or ideas. Please let Melissa or Joanne know if you have any suggestions.
- New Member Recruitment: In addition to recruiting, Melissa mentioned the need for an onboarding process to help new members feel comfortable in the gardens and to assure their safety. One possibility would be to have garden mentors for new members.
- Media: FB and Instagram are crucial to getting the word out to the public. Deb has done a phenomenal job growing our FB presence and reported that we now have 1,556 followers on our FB page, Rooted in Williamsville. Deb asked all committee members to please like and share posts to increase our reach.
- Committee Administration
 - Melissa announced that she and Joanne would like to see some basic guidelines and procedures documented to allow other committee members to assist as needed and for future Committee Chairs.

Garden Reports – Captains reports are as follows:

- Heritage Garden of 1812 – Joanne and Melissa
 - Joanne reported that she and Melissa are seeking a Deputy Captain to provide a little more assistance with the garden as their Co-Chair duties demand attention.
 - Melissa also mentioned a possible sculpture for the garden as an additional wish.
- Pocket Park’s Mural Garden – Deb and Marcia
 - Along with the garden requests listed above, Deb noted art work additions in the garden are complete and ongoing maintenance will be the focus of garden now.
- Memory Garden: Ramona and Myra
 - The small perennials planted last year are struggling and will need to be replaced as needed
 - Pea gravel will also need to be refreshed in Memory
 - A wish for Memory would be a permanent pole to replace the current Maypole. Melissa asked Mona to research and see what is available.
 - A late July Children’s Book Themed event is a possibility

DPW Valentine’s Appreciation Day – February 13th

- The Committee will host its annual Valentine’s Appreciation Breakfast and Morning Break on February 13th, at 9:00am (set up is 8:30am) at the DPW Garage on S. Long. Many thanks to all who donated goodies for the events and can attend to assist with the festivities. And many thanks to Linda for volunteering to take photos and submit an article to the Amherst Bee.

Update: Myra’s Surprise: This will be rescheduled when Myra will be available.

Other: Deb recommended selecting dates and make reservations for the annual Beautification Committee Picnic and Friendsgiving events before the gardening season starts.

Minutes drafted by Joanne Miechowski and approved by Melissa Warner

Our regular meeting schedule is the second Tuesday of February, March, April, and October in addition to regular weeding, watering, planting, and special events.

Our next regular meeting will be March 10, 2026 at 1:00pm in Village Hall

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**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.