

Village of Williamsville
Beautification Committee
Meeting Notes

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

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

Absent: Monica Celeste, Sharon Daniels, Liveleen Gill, Joyce Haskell, Robin Kashyap, Myra Lenz, Jennifer Licht, Linda Anscombe, Michele Pagliaroli, Marcia Roth, Sharon Schwartz, Sally White

Review of 2026 Committee Chairs & Captains: The following co-chairs and captains were announced. *Please note:* There is an opening for a Community Engagement Co-Chair to work with Jen Licht. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Melissa or Joanne.

- **Committee Co-Chairs:** Melissa Warner and Joanne Miechowski
- **Events Co-Chairs:** Dian Lewin & Ramona Schickling
- **Community Engagement Co-Chairs:** Jen Licht and co-chair
- **Social Media Co-Chairs:** Deb Habes (Facebook) and Dian Lewin (Instagram)
- **Press Release Co-Chairs:** Dian Lewin and Linda Anscombe
- **Garden Captains:** Mural – Deb Habes & Marcia Roth; Memory - Ramona Schickling & Monica Celeste; 1812 – Melissa Warner & Joanne Miechowski
- **Watering Schedule Captain:** Jen Licht
- **Hours Tracking Captain:** Myra Lenz
- **Secretary:** Minutes will rotate for each meeting. 2026 Schedule: February 10 (Joanne), March 10 (Edie), April 14 (Ramona), Oct 13 (Linda)

Trustee Liaison's Report: The following was reported by Trustee Jeff Hahn:

- Village wide efforts for 2026 include:
 - A re-do of Top of the Glen using the same strategy as was used in 1812 last year is planned, i.e., DPW will remove plants allowing for a new garden to be planted. Melissa requested that the roses in the garden remain as they are heirloom roses and have become a signature piece in the garden. Melissa was asked to put this request in writing via an email. A work/planting day will take place in the garden on May 2 at 10am. Trustee Jeff will be participating and invited Committee Members to join him.
 - It is anticipated that Village Hall will be painted this year and will be in need of a new garden. Trustee Jeff requested that the Committee consider taking this garden under its auspices. No date has been set yet for the painting.
- Trustee Jeff is liaising with DPW regarding the committee's gardening wish list including: mulch by June 15, benches for 1812 and Memory, removal of bushes at Mural and pea gravel for the walkway in 1812.
- Garden Captains were requested to determine how much compost they would like and when they would like it delivered. Trustee Jeff will make arrangements to get compost delivered.
- The Valentine's Thank You Event and goodies were greatly appreciated by the DPW crew.

Community Engagement/Events:

- **Petals for Pollinators: (May 30 and June 6)** The Committee very much liked the program proposal drafted by Jen to create awareness regarding pollinators and to encourage the public to help sustain pollinators by planting zinnias. The event will consist of a zinnia seed giveaway from our gardens at the Farmers Market (May 30) and Earth Day (June 6) and a social media campaign. Jen and Dian will move forward with the plan.

- **Daisy Girl Scouts Planting at Mural Garden: (June 5)** The girls will plant daisies at this event. Certificates will be given to the girls along with a pack of Zinnia Seed from our gardens to encourage pollinator awareness. Deb will be leading the event and asked for committee assistance. Please let her know if you can help.
- **Amherst Garden Walk (July 11 & 12):** All three gardens (Memory, Mural and 1812) will be listed in Amherst Garden Walk. Tours will be given of Mural Park on Saturday. Dian is coordinating with Amherst Garden Walk.
- **Children’s Event at Memory (July 25):** This will feature a book reading of the “Lady Bug Picnic”, a coloring station, photo op station, and scavenger hunt. Mona will be leading this event and will call for a sub-committee meeting to assist with planning and implementation.
- **An art event:** Unveiling of Myra’s painting and an “Artist in the Garden” or “Come and Paint” event in Mural Garden, etc., will be planned for later in the summer.

New Member Recruitment Updates:

- New potential volunteers & follow up: Melissa and Joanne are following up with prospective volunteers.
- Onboarding Guidelines for new members: Melissa created an onboarding document to welcome committee members and help assure their experience with the Committee and in the gardens is both a safe and enjoyable one.
- New Flier: Joanne created a flier to provide more information about the Committee and its activities for prospective members. A link to the flier has been posted on the Committee’s page on the Village website.

Volunteer Recruitment:

- South High School: Jen has contacted the school and put in a request for volunteers.

Press Release and Social Media Updates: Many Thanks to Linda for writing and submitting the article about our Valentines Thank You Event for DPW! The Bee ran Linda’s complete article along with a photo.

Garden Reports – 2026 garden updates: 1812, Mural and Memory Garden: Planning is underway by the Captains for the season and will be the focus of our next meeting in April.

Other: Review Potential Dates for:

- Annual Picnic in the Gazebo – The tentative date of September 10, 2026 will need to be changed as DPW will be working on renovations in the park and it conflicts with a garden talk being organized by Linda.
- ‘Friendsgiving’ Lunch will be Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30am. Reservations to be made at the Eagle House

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Deb and seconded by Mona.

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 April 14, 2026 at 1:00pm in Village Hall

Minutes Drafted by Edie Malizia and approved by co-chairs, Melissa Warner and Joanne Miechowski.

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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.