

Community Development Committee
Town of Independence
March 4, 2024
2pm – Fire Hall
Draft Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kit Marshall, Chairwoman, Joan Collins, Mark Miller

Committee Members Absent: Matthew Adams, Mary Ann Halsey

Adhoc: Laura Ratcliffe

Adhoc Members Absent: Ronald Sexton

- 1) Call to Order – Kit Marshall
- 2) Minutes from February 20th meeting – reviewed and approved
- 3) Old Business
 - a. Town Park Update
 - i. Laura gave update on Quotes. Group agreed to meeting on 3/11 at 2 pm to review.
 - ii. VOF Grant – discussed need for title search/deed to be filed. Do not have to do survey.
 1. **To Do: Laura will complete and get with Roger to finalize the deed.**
 - iii. Meeting with Cynthia Taylor 3/13 @1pm – Town Park
 - iv. Split Rail Install around Park – Mark – discussed needs for fencing.
 1. **To Do: Mark to provide needed materials and obtain quotes.**
 - v. Reviewed additional plans for frost free, pedestrian entrances, possible steps at electrical; group wants to know if asphalt can be removed at corner of 21/58; future plan for sign at that corner if possible.
 1. **To Do: Laura to check on asphalt**
 - vi. Paver Plan – Kit presented bringing it back for town park; post on social media, etc. will make \$115 each, use mulch in walk way until then.
 1. **To Do: Laura to have added to social media and Town website/ forms at Town Office**
 - vii. Litter Grant – use money to purchase trash cans for town park, research temporary can holders for events.
 1. **To Do: Laura to have cans ordered**
 - viii. Revive Bench Program – another push for this.... looking for benches for Town Park. One option may be to move some from in front of the 1908.
 - ix. Apply for Wellspring Hope Grant for Bike Rack/Play Equipment/Tables – Kit wants to apply for grant – applications available 6/1 – release on a rolling basis. Added to Town Council agenda.
 - b. Fireworks – location recommendation to Town Council
 - i. Discussion regarding the location options of either School or Rec Park.
 - ii. Joan wants to make sure County Rec committee is engaged with the Town on events.

- c. Privy Race Volunteers - committee will recommend to Town Council that volunteers manage the activities for the Mountain Foliage Festival including Privy race, etc.
- d. Streetscape/ Beautification 2024 Budget
 - i. 2024 initiative – Kit gave update – new containers ordered; plants will be picked in the next weeks. Committee members want evergreens in all pots instead of deciduous trees. Will have 16 barrels for flowers/soil – estimated \$400 and have credit w/Karen. Have roughly \$500 to spend. Laura to cover geraniums/Town Hall plantings out of town maintenance. Use remaining funds for plantings at Town entrance signs.
 - ii. Rocking Chairs – need to move several from the 1908 to Michael/Jody’s buildings.
 - 1. **To Do: Kit will get with Wesley on the move.**
 - iii. Does committee want additional buntings ordered for 4th of July?
 - 1. Discussion ensued after Laura shared pricing. Defer to 2025 Budget.
 - iv. Clean Up Day – Joan suggest pick a day and ask Land Care and Community Matters groups to help. Use the community service workers, public works guys, school –
 - 1. **To Do: Joan will enlist area groups to help,**
 - a. **Laura will post on social and have supplies etc. available.**
 - v. Final Placement of barrels
 - 1. Discussed barrel placement goal – start at 1908 and go to high school. Bad ones gone/have 16 left. All on concrete except the one’s in front of Joan’s building.
 - a. **To Do: Laura to give plan to public works and have them go ahead and move.**
 - Plan:
 - i. 3 at high school entrance
 - ii. 3 in front of Joan’s building
 - iii. 2 at school walkway
 - iv. 1 at Town Hall
 - v. 1 at Hugh Chatham
 - vi. 1 at Skyline bank
 - vii. Remaining on 21 S around Town Park
 - vi. Identify spots for new trees – Joan wants to start program regarding adding trees. Has started researching trees and will make recommendations on locations for presentation at town council. Identify pricing. Consider adding it to the bench/rocker program for *Beautify Independence*. Committee reminded they need to follow the purchasing policy.
 - 1. **To Do: Joan to make recommendation to committee for type and placement of trees and obtain quotes.**
- e. Town Code Change Recommendations
 - i. Lengthy discussion ensued on the wording. Recommendation of Committee to Town Council is to make the following changes:
 - 1. Section 91.03 Nuisance Enumerated

- a. No Changes
 - i. No changes
 - ii. Remove “annoying”
 - iii. Remove “annoying” add **downed trees, including root ball, removed within 60 days of happening or discovery.**
 - iv. Remove “annoying”
 - v. All Obstructions caused or permitted on any ~~street or sidewalk~~ **property**
 - vi. No changes
 - vii. Remove “annoying”

The committee would like Attorney Brooks guidance on the best wording and place to add the following items:

- Trash and Rubbish not allowed to accumulate on any property, this does not include a well-controlled/maintained compost pile.
- Grass/Lawn/Weed height not to exceed 8” in height.
- Street parking only allowed in designated places where enough space exists to allow traffic to operate safely.

2. Section 150.24 Posting and Size Numbers

- a. Numerals indicating the official numbers for each principal building or each front entrance to such building shall be posted in a manner as to be visible and distinguishable from the street on which the property is located. **Buildings not visible from the street shall have the numbers posted at the street.** These numbers shall be at least ~~three~~ **4”** high and **½ inch wide.** building is located

4) New Business

- a. 2025 Community Development Budget
 - i. The committee will need to meet again to discuss and formalize their budget recommendation for 2025. No date set.
 - ii. Start to consider 5-year plan.

There being no more business, Chairwoman Marshall adjourned the meeting at 4:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Laura Ratcliffe