

**Town of Richmond
Gardening Committee Meeting**

AGENDA

Monday, June 12, 2023, 7:00 PM

Volunteer's Green Bandstand

Members present: Caroline Schlutius, Erin Farr, Jim Feinson, Mary Houle, Hannah Harrington.

Absent: Marilynne Johnson

1. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
 - a. Officer selected as Chair: Caroline Schlutius
 - b. Officer selected as Vice Chair: Erin Farr
2. Select day and time for future meetings
 - a. Wednesday was agreed upon as the best day
 - b. Caroline will check to see if second or third Wednesday of the month would have space available in Town Office
 - c. Committee discussed pausing meetings during the winter and resuming regular meetings in early spring
3. Assessment of memorial garden/tree area behind benches
 - a. Mary identified several of the plantings at the tree area that are well worth the effort to save them for future use in the same area three groupings of variegated Hosta and a Weigelia bush. There is also a clutter/cluster of day lilies which are likely the standard orange, mixed in the treed area.
 - b. The two Euonymus should be removed as they are identified by Vermont Forest and Parks as invasive species. They are growing out of control and contribute to the messy appearance of the area. The mature trees are well worth the effort to keep. These trees provide shade for folks sitting on the benches and shelter for birds.
 - c. Benches need either replacement or rehab.
 - d. Discussion of how to improve the area in the trees
 - i. Create a path into the trees, sensory garden.
 - ii. Short term: Mary has agreed to remove much of the lesser vegetation to open the area between the trees, preserving the Hostas and assessing the day lily plants there. The Weigelia will be preserved. Erin will remove and replant the milk weed plants for her butterfly preserve.
 - e. Erin Farr suggested creating a heritage area to bring in plants from folks in the community that have been Richmond residents for a long period of time like from gardens of Harriet Riggs and Peg Farr. This was well received and supported by our committee.
4. Assessment of 7 cement planters around playground
 - a. Four of the planters were planted for an Earth Day celebration by a local school group

- i. We need to find out what their plans are to care for them over the growing season
 - b. Discussion of how to prepare the planters in preparation of the 4th of July celebration
 - i. Erin Farr is willing to approach Paquette's Full Of Posies and Claussen's for annual flowers for this planting
 - ii. Painting the exterior of the planters was discussed
 1. Mary Houle expressed preference for painting all the planters the same color to keep with the idea of beautification
5. Access to water for plantings in Volunteer's Green
 - a. Erin spoke with Pete Gosselin, Road Foreman about a couple items since our informal meeting on June 8th. Pete is in favor of beautification of the area and although there is no water spicket/access in the park, he offered to assist us with the water needs for the plants we install. Pete also mentioned there is a budget for the Park, which may be for the whole park (including cleaning the rest room building and trash removal)
6. Future agenda items
 - a. Determining and proposing budget for this year and next
 - b. Creating plan for the memorial garden/tree area
 - c. Discussion of planning and installing 'Welcome to Richmond' sign at the Jonesville end of town
7. Adjourned at 7:50