

# **Sky Valley Landscaping Advisory Committee**

March 20, 2023 Minutes

Present: Cheryl Beckert, chair; Mark Wanamaker, landscaping contractor; and committee members Debbie McAfee, Glen McLendon and Debbie Dalhouse Curtis

Absent: Sara Mac Germano (resigned from committee due to health concerns)

Cheryl Beckert convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.; adjourned at 11:11 a.m. at the new City Hall

The group discussed planting recommendations for the two beds in front of the building and one bed at the base of the roadside stand, as well as for a memorial bench at the Post Office and committee members' concerns.

## **Front of new City Hall**

- The two beds are both approximately 4' deep by 15' long and receive mid-day to afternoon sun. There is no irrigation system but there is a hose behind the building if City staff members have time to water the plants.
- Committee members propose to plant low-growing Blue Prince and Blue Princess Hollies as a hedge with a native Ninebark shrub either in the center or at the ends of each bed. They recommend blooming plants for the street-facing side of the beds; possibly Wild Geraniums or Dwarf Coneflower. Cheryl Beckert and Mark Wanamaker will decide on the specific plants, based on availability and price.

## **Sign at new City Hall**

- This bed is approximately 5' deep by 10' long, located under the sign at the roadside. It receives sun most of the day. There is no irrigation system but there is a hose behind the building if City staff members have time to water the plants.
- Committee members propose to plant Golden Mop Dwarf Cypress with a Ninebark shrub in the center behind the sign and Wild Geraniums or other colorful annuals on the street-facing side of the bed. Cheryl Beckert and Mark Wanamaker will decide on the specific plants, based on availability and price.

## **Post Office**

- The City plans to place a bench at the Post Office in memory of Bob Powers. Mark Wanamaker has cobblestones to donate, and proposes that the bench be placed between the flagpole and the bulletin board where grass currently grows. He recommends planting a small evergreen at each end of the bench and continuing to split the existing daylilies around the flagpole and bulletin board to fill in the bed.
- The group agreed that hardy, drought resistant annual flowers are needed in front of the Post Office, possibly Wild Geraniums. Cheryl Beckert and Mark Wanamaker will decide on the specific plants, based on availability and price.
- Debbie McAfee requested that Mark Wanamaker fill in empty areas on the hill behind the Post Office with daylilies and daffodils as they are divided from existing areas. She withdrew a request to plant flowers or shrubs at the pickleball court since the parking or playing surfaces may be expanded in the future.

**Front Entrance – Teardrop Island**

- The pollinator plants installed last year did not reseed as expected. The issue appears to be that the pine needle mulch is too deep. Mark Wanamaker will remove some of the mulch and plant additional pollinator plants (Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm and Coneflower) as well as Wild Geraniums.

**City Sign on Bald Mountain Road**

- Native Christmas ferns planted at this sign did not survive due to brine run-off from the street. Mark Wanamaker volunteered to loosen the soil around the sign and cover it with pine needles until the Garden Club decides on hardy plants that can survive there. A possible plant is Hosta donated by residents; but salt hardiness is not known at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Dalhouse Curtis

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Dalhouse". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.