

WILMINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2025

Committee Members Present: Cheryl Rothman, Bev Butler, Kathleen Comeau, Adele Mattern, Elaine Ahnell, Carol Sewall, Tanya Powling and Keith Herbert.

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl at 8:02 a.m.

Visitors, Public Comments: Patty Small from Chimney Hill returned to continue with her information on working to help eliminate the invasive Japanese Knotweed. Printouts of information she had sent to Kathleen were distributed. Patty attended a public volunteer removal session in Ferrisburgh, VT sponsored by the Lewis Creek Association on August 13. The association has a Knotweed Removal and Mapping Project. She met with Kate Kelly, Program Manager, and Mike Bald of "Got Weeds" who is guiding the work and demonstrating effective methods for knotweed removal without chemicals. They received a grant for interns to help with this during the summer. In addition, they have volunteers from the community who are assisting. Possibly Mike would be willing to come to Wilmington to speak. The Vermont Land Trust website has an informative webinar.

Patty is looking to make the town and residents aware and educated and create a plan to work towards solving the problem. She recommends starting in areas where residents can see the difference. In Chimney Hill she has been continuously cutting flush to the ground which will over time weaken the plant. With 70% below ground it can take a couple of years. She then puts the cuttings on pallets to dry which works best to kill them. She spoke to Scott to see who to contact about disposal and was told Marshall who then recommended the transfer station. She is concerned about what has been cut in the South Main street area with regard to disposal of the cuttings. Cheryl said she will reach out to Marshall and let Patty know what she finds out. Cheryl will also ask Marshall where the Beaver Park cleanup was disposed of.

The Lewis Creek Association has put up signs describing what is going on and who to contact with questions. Patty would love to see that happen. Members suggested again that she reach out to have an article put in the Deerfield Valley News. Carol said she will work to add this suggestion of signs to the Chimney Hill newsletter and present to the Chimney Hill Board.

Approved Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025, by Adele, seconded by Bev and approved by all.

Treasurer Report: None at this time.

Landscape Program: Cheryl will talk to Scott about who is mowing over at Bank Park. The vines need to be tied up which may be done by Alice when she returns later this month. Keith will look at Dixon which needs some weed whacking. Keith was planning to trim the tree in front of the old Red Fox building but Cheryl suggested he not do and let the owner decide what he wants done with it. Cheryl will talk to Marshall about the dead trees on South Main. Adele recommended that members download one of the plant apps to better weed Gateway. She mentioned that the weeds at the back of Gateway are particularly bad and the black eyed susans are taking over. She will try to find the list of all the original plants and send to Cheryl. Carol talked about the initiative in Chimney Hill to plant pollinators suggesting that over time there could be some clearing out and then additions of pollinators. Keith is planning to do a good pruning at Gateway in the fall.

With regard to winter decorations, Elaine still expects to hear from Martin by the end of September. If he cannot help, Cheryl recommended Duttons. Cheryl will order all of the other winter decorations from Walmart after confirming with Elaine.

Barrel Program: Windham Regional is working with Cheryl to confirm the placement of the barrels which they will then map so that barrels can end up in the same spot after they go in the garage in October and come out in May. Stephanie plans to pull the flowers at the end of September at Riverbank and she will replace with mums. Cheryl will make sure that Stephanie removes them at the end of the season.

Town Manager Report: None

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: A working meeting on Monday, September 22, 2025, at Gateway and River Bank.

Adjourn Motion: Adele

Second: Bev

All in Favor

Opposed: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Comeau