

WILMINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

August 24, 2026

Committee Members Present: Cheryl Rothman, Anne Saracino, Elaine Ahnell, Adele Mattern and Kathleen Comeau.

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl at 8:00 a.m.

Visitors, Public Comments: There were no visitors nor public comments.

Approved Minutes: Minutes from the April 27 and May 11 meetings were not approved at this time due to a lack of quorum.

Landscape Program: Cheryl distributed copies of the original landscape plan for Gateway. Melanie Boyd has spent many hours there but the Committee has determined it is beyond the ability of the members to take care of all that needs to be done with both overgrown and dead plantings. Scott Tucker attended the meeting during this discussion. Scott was in agreement to have Cheryl do an RFP to put out to bid for a professional landscape company and he will add her to the agenda for the September 14 Select board meeting. Cheryl will start by reaching out to Joe Saladino of Saladino Property Maintenance. Melanie has also sent Cheryl the names of several possible landscapers. Because the garden is on state land, Scott will ask the new state project manager to visit to start the process of obtaining a permit. Cheryl will send potential dates to Scott to meet.

Trebbe, Dixon and Bank Park both need weeding and pruning. Cheryl has emailed Keith about Trebbe but has not received a response to date. Anne and her husband Marc have done some work previously at Trebbe and she'll see if they are available to return. Cheryl will do some work at Bank Park.

Barrel Program: Cheryl drove around with Stephanie looking at the barrels and flowers. It was decided that members will spend some time driving around and looking at the barrels to bring notes to the October 5 meeting with suggestions for what they like as well as what they would like to see added or deleted for discussion in preparation for the new RFP. Discussion followed on the variations in potato vines where some are showing up better than others, the pink flowers are not showing up well, more color needed on the Reardon Bridge vs the white there and Elaine mentioned how lovely the pink and purple lantana is in front of Bartelby Books. Adele commented on how beautiful the Brattleboro plantings are if anyone is interested in looking at those. At the October 5 meeting there will be discussion on placement of the barrels and what we have available. Janine of Janine's Home & Style Boutique has requested a barrel at her new downtown location. Dixon may need relocation of the barrel there. Previously two barrels at that location have been hit by a delivery truck. The barrels moved due to construction on the north side of East Main can be placed in other locations once the work is done. Stephanie added flowers to the extra barrel at 1836. That barrel can possibly be moved to Janine's. The other barrel at that location is a shade barrel. Maple Leaf has requested a barrel. Stephanie and Cheryl thought that Maple Leaf might consider building a false wall to hide their garbage containers to go between them and the barrel. Members were reminded that all business owners with barrels sign an agreement to maintain the area around the barrels.

Buntings: Buntings will be taken down on September 14 at 9:00.

Winter Decorations: Elaine has texted Jamaica Gardens with regard to the railing measurements for greenery and wreaths to start the process. It was decided to leave the lights up on Reardon Bridge where Cheryl will put the timer back in place and members can drive by to see which are still working and which need to be replaced.

The meeting was concluded with Anne bringing up the idea to create a binder that contains all the information for future members to refer to include pictures of barrels with the listing of plantings, present year minutes, Gateway map, bunting information, holiday decorating information, etc. She asked that members send information to her that they consider worth including.

Town Manager Report: None

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: A working meeting on September 14, 2026, at 9:00 to take down the buntings.

Adjourn Motion: Elaine

Second: Adele

All in Favor

Opposed: 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Comeau