

WILMINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Special Meeting October 5, 2026

Committee Members Present: Cheryl Rothman, Elaine Ahnell, Bev Butler, Melanie Boyd and Kathleen Comeau.

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl at 8:05 a.m.

Visitors, Public Comments: Gretchen Havreluk, Economic Development Specialist in the Wilmington Economic Development Office, attended to thank the Committee for all that we do, the beautiful flowers, Gateway (acknowledging it is overgrown at this point), Stephanie's wonderful job as well with the town plantings and updated the Committee on potential future construction projects for the planning of barrel placements or any other Beautification Committee projects. She would like a list of barrel placements for future construction projects and Cheryl recommended she contact Windham Regional as they have map.

Zoom was available as one person had requested but they didn't connect.

Approved Minutes: Minutes from the April 27, May 11, and August 24, 2026, meetings were not approved at this time due to a lack of quorum.

Landscape Program: Cheryl has not yet been able to work on the items necessary to determine the direction for having the Gateway Garden done. It looks like it will come together for the spring.

Anne and her husband Marc have worked on Trebbe. Cheryl will ask Keith to tackle what is needed that requires a ladder. Cheryl and Melanie will work on the Bank Park the morning of October 9.

Elaine informed the Committee of her tour with Anne and Kathleen of the barrels and planters including some in Dover. The recommendation for next year is to go with pink angle wings vs red, and a pink, purple, and white theme. The purple salvia and scaevola were very pretty this year as was the gaura. The sweet potato vines didn't do well with bug holes. The red sweet potato vines seemed better. Maybe add some white begonias in a larger size like what is found in the Dover barrels. The lantana in the Bookstore boxes is beautiful. Martin had a problem with his yellow flowers this year and that is why they didn't thrive. Melanie thought there had not been enough watering, particularly on the bridge, which others were in agreement, and recommends we confirm Stephanie's watering and fertilizing processes. Elaine, Anne and Kathleen noticed that Dover's plants looked healthier and also noticed that the boxes on the bridge need to be painted.

Barrel Program: The request from Maple Leaf for a barrel is still pending as contact with them has not been successful to determine what if any location would work. The extra barrel at 1836 will be moved to Janine's new location downtown. There will be rearranging of barrels back to original locations with recent construction completed, and at this point it doesn't look like any new barrels need to be purchased. Stephanie will be removing plants the week of October 19 and Cheryl will coordinate with Marshall for the removal of the barrels as well as putting in a request that they be stored with pallets between them vs stacking them on top of each other.

Per Gretchen the sidewalk work on North Main will start possibly mid-April next year with the hope to be done in about one and half months. She will keep Cheryl informed as barrels go out the first week in June. Eventually Route 9E sewer and water work will be done and may impact some barrels as well as additional sidewalk work throughout town.

Buntings: Cheryl will take down the buntings on the bridge the week of October 19 and determine if any can be kept. Having them out longer this year causes more wear and tear.

Winter Decorations: The park tree lights will be put up on Thursday, November 5, along with the greenery in the planters and the replacement of the one string on Reardon Bridge. Tree lights were saved from last year but new are needed for the park railings and the one replacement on the bridge. The lights and timer are set already on the bridge. Elaine will check Walmart for the pricing on the lights when she goes to purchase the red balls. Cheryl will get the town debit card to her. Gretchen asked why we do not purchase from WW and was told because they are too expensive and have not offered us any discount on previous purchases. Elaine has been in contact with Martin regarding the roping asking for the week of November 16. It still is pending due to what he has for workers. The plan is to have the roping in place by November 23.

Town Manager Report: Scott informed the Committee that the knotweed that the town has been working to remove has been treated with an aqua focused treatment, the area has been cordoned off so that people will know it has been treated and they are working with the Vermont Agriculture Agency and 'experts' with the knowledge of what type of treatment to use. The knotweed is now causing a problem on the Hoot Toot Whistle trail as well which the Trail Committee is working on.

Old Business: None

Next Meeting: November 23, 2026 at 8:00.

Adjourn Motion: Elaine

Second: Bev

All in Favor

Opposed: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Comeau