

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: Downtown Group
Date: August 6, 2013
Re: Downtown Trash Cans and Trees

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Council on Downtown Group discussions and seek authorization for the expenditure of funds for trash cans in the downtown and three street trees on the town owned property on the northwest corner of 6th and Main Street.

Discussion:

- Kathy and Tom reported that they visited Cleyo and Rosie Ferrin and presented the Clean-Up Day Award. Photographs were taken and good wishes exchanged. The Ferrins look forward to more clean-up projects.
- The group discussed future projects:
 - The idea of vibrantly painted downtown buildings (google Tannersville, NY). (Barb McCune has painted her building and used a vibrant color on a portion of the building. Also, White River has recently painted and made improvements to the doorway and window areas. Sam Garcia has a color scheme for his building that captures the colors from his interior.) The idea is to use color as an enhancing element to bring notice and build community identity. The group is still exploring this idea and will come to Council with ideas in the future, if viable.
 - The group also discussed the possibility of planting some street trees on the Town owned 6th and Main Street property (NW corner). It was suggested that three trees would be adequate. The group would work with a local grower to secure the best price and also see if irrigation water is available (the group was concerned that we have irrigation for any new tree planting).
 - The group also discussed adding some trash cans to the downtown area (similar to the trash can between Town Hall and the Library).
- The group also discussed the possibility of allowing U-Haul parking on the town owned lot adjacent to the service station. This idea was raised as a way to “spiff-up” that area. This idea needs more discussion and the group was not ready to bring it forward.
- Tim Cain put together a photographic inventory of the Burning Mountain subdivision/railroad corridor interface area. The inventory showed landscape debris, retaining wall failure, fencing issues and litter. The group is considering this area for a targeted clean-up in October in conjunction with the community clean-up day.

Request: While the Downtown Group has a number of ideas percolating, we wish to seek funding for two specific ideas and would like Council's consideration.

- 1. We would like to plant three street trees on the town owned property at 6th and Main (nw corner).** The group will work with a local grower to secure the best tree and best deal for the town. Many in the group only want to plant trees only if irrigation is available and this is yet to be determined.
- 2. We would like to add two to four trash cans to the downtown.** Similar to the trash can located between the Library and Town Hall. A brief review of the costs indicates that this type of trash can costs around \$500.

The Downtown Group is requesting \$1,500 for these efforts. Our first priority will be the street trees and the remaining funds will be used to secure appropriate trash cans.

Town Administrator Comment: As a DT Group participant I like this request. As the Town Administrator I have a larger responsibility for the town's budget and how funds are allocated and spent. Because this is our 125th Anniversary Year I can rationalize this as an expense for beautifying the downtown; however, in the future the DT Group will need to bring their ideas to Council in time to be considered as part of the 2014 Budget process. While Council will always need flexibility to consider mid-year expenditures, and should have a discretionary line item for that purpose, it is also important for groups planning projects to bring those project forward so they can be compared to other town priorities.