



Harriston Rising Committee Minutes

**Monday, January 10, 2022
12:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Chair Glen Hall, Kathie Butcher, Lisa Leslie, Anthony Tsotros

Staff Present:

Belinda Wick-Graham Director Economic & Community Development
Erin Raftis, Marketing & Community Development Coordinator

Regrets: Councillor Geoff Gunson, Dr. Shawn McDonald, John Mock

- 1. Call to Order at 12:03pm by Chair Glen Hall**
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- a. Minutes of September 15, 2021 Harriston Rising Meeting

It was noted that the pick-up location under the Beautification Committee update should say Steckles, not Stones N' More.

MOTION

Moved By: Kathie Butcher Seconded By: Lisa Leslie

THAT the Harriston Rising Steering Committee approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting.

Carried.

- 3. Roundtable Discussion**

- a. 2021 Budget Recap

Belinda Wick-Graham reviewed the budget as of January 3rd, 2022 and noted that due to a new change by the Deputy-Treasurer, the committee is now permitted to create a reserve that can be carried over into the new year. There was a total of \$3223.64 left in the budget at the end of 2021. Wick-Graham also noted that some expenses, including additions to

Ladies' Night, DJ costs, etc., were coded to a general downtown or COVID expense account and were not deducted from Harriston Rising's budget.

b. Beautification Committee Update

Kathie Butcher updated on the Beautification Committee and noted that operations will continue similarly to the previous year. The sub-committee will be removing winter planters and Christmas décor in the upcoming weeks for Spring. The group will continue to use Steckles for summer and fall planters, and Butcher noted that she will need confirmation from Town Landscape Coordinator, Paul Judge, regarding 2022 planters. Chair Hall asked the committee for any feedback on the plan and Lisa Leslie suggested investigating the possibility of adding hydro to the bridge between Leslie Motors and Perfect Piece to add colour to the downtown. Other committee members also suggested hydro at the John Street Bridge, as well as lighting the new signs by Harry Stones and the Ice Cream Cones, potentially with solar lights.

c. Events Committee Update

Kathie Butcher reviewed 2021 events, noting that Sundaes on Sunday may not run again, or will need to be moved from fall to summer. Butcher also shared the success of Halloween Haunt, which boasted 25 volunteers and about 350 kids, and highlighted a few changes for the following year, including tables for people to sit and socialize, and inviting collaboration from groups like the Grey-Wellington Theatre Guild. Hall added that Callise Loos may be interested in using the Fire Hall for a haunted house in the future. Butcher also shared that Candyland with Mrs. Claus was successful and will also run in 2022. Due to lack of interest this past year, Harriston Shines will be altered in 2022, likely combining it with Candyland. Leslie suggested combining both with the Santa Claus Parade (pending interest from Minto Fire), to increase overall attendance. Butcher plans to source Christmas decorations out soon to capitalize on current sales. Finally, Butcher shared that the Events committee gained three more volunteers since 2021, and the committee now consists of eight total members. The Events committee will get together to decide what events will be possible for 2022.

d. 2022 Projects

The committee discussed upcoming projects, starting with the 50 ft x 10 ft mural on Eric Cox building, which is estimated to cost \$12 500. The group brainstormed fundraising methods, including seeking donations from Eric Cox and other local businesses. Wick-Graham also noted if Eric Cox applied to do it, they could receive a \$1000 CIP grant. Leslie suggested utilizing the Mayor's Golf Tournament money and potentially asking the JYD tournament to sponsor the mural. Glen Hall noted that we could share the initial drawings from Blaze to spark interest in donating. Wick-Graham also noted that providing our June 2022 events run as planned, they could be used to fundraise. The group agreed to delay the timeline, to give artist Blaze, the initial down payment in September 2022, once some funds have been collected, and complete the mural in summer of 2023.

Other projects for 2022 will include hosting and improving past events, such as Halloween Haunt and Candyland/Harriston Shines, and improving upon fundraisers, such as our hoodie and t-shirt sales.

Chair Glen Hall recommended the committee meet again in one month to discuss timelines and budget more thoroughly once more details are known.

The group also discussed the broken tree lights on main street and agreed to remove them in the spring and only rehang them for the winter season. The remaining working lights will be given to the Events Committee for decorating for seasonal events.

The committee also highlighted some areas to create “colour zones” to better exemplify the “cool cones & colour zones” portion of our branding. Places suggested include the two bridges and the Grey-Wellington Theatre Guild alley way. Hall reminded the group of the possibility of the walkway between Harry Stones and Foodland, and Anthony Tsotros shared that Foodland agreed to plant grass and Harry Stones will maintain it. Butcher asked the group to consider the possibility of widening the entranceway to Tannery Park to increase visibility and space by removing the planters. Wick-Graham noted she will confer with the structural engineers.

Next, Hall reminded the group of the previously discussed “passive activities” downtown, which can be returned to once it can be implemented safely, after the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, Marketing & Community Development Coordinator, Erin Raftis, will continue with creating promotions for events and updating social media accounts and websites.

5. Adjournment at 12:54pm

Next meeting will be Monday, February 14th, at 12:00pm.