



Harriston Rising Committee Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

8:00 a.m.

LaunchIt Minto

Attendance: Chair Lisa Leslie, Peggy Raftis, Rachel Hopf, Linda Carter, Councillor Ed Podniewicz, Caitlin Loughran, Jan Campbell, John Mock, Raissa Rogers, Mabel Amapali, Ellysse Charlebois.

Staff: Erin Raftis, Marketing & Community Development Coordinator

Regrets: John Kay

1. Call to Order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - a. Minutes of the January 8th, 2025 Harriston Rising Minutes

MOTION

Moved by: Peggy Raftis Seconded by: Lisa Leslie

THAT the Harriston Rising committee approve the minutes of the January 8th, 2025 meeting.

CARRIED.

3. Roundtable Discussion
 - a. Budget Update
 1. 2024 Final Budget
 2. 2025 Budget Planning

The committee reviewed and approved the budget for use in 2025. Additional funds that were saved from cancelling the Chili Cook-Off and Hometown Christmas will be allocated to other projects, such as the alleyway and bridge beautification efforts and additional Halloween decor.

b. Beautification Update

Leslie reported that there is graffiti on the side of the bridge by Leslie Motors. Raftis will investigate who is responsible for clean-up/cover-up.

Raftis shared that 18 planters were sold for Spring. Pick-up and payment is at Steckles and they will donate a portion of sales back to our committee.

Raftis noted that Raissa Rogers agreed to be our new beautification chair. Rogers reported that in February she placed Valentine décor in the planters and will be putting out Spring décor this week. Rogers inquired about who is responsible for decorating the Harry Stones balcony and the committee noted Harry Stones does that themselves.

The committee discussed a proposal from Public Works regarding Christmas lights, and decided to recommend restringing all our current lights, rather than replace them entirely.

Raftis added that the mural on Remax will be replaced with the Town of Minto Public Art Restoration fund. Discussions will be held between the Minto Arts Council, Library, and Remax on a new artwork. Belinda Wick-Graham is in touch with the original artist, Aiden, as well as Blaze, an artist who has completed several murals for us over the years.

Leslie shared that Willa Wick is interested in painting a mural on the front of the Leslie Motors bridge. Ideas included bright colours, possible grass and flowers, or a water theme to match the river, or the word Harriston. The committee would like to move the cement planters elsewhere (possibly the theatre alleyway to be planted with easy greenery like hostas), and move the furniture to the outside ends of the bridge. The committee would also like to purchase a string of lights to go between the poles on the bridge. Raftis will look into measuring the area and ordering the same lights purchased for the alleyway. Leslie will discuss a timeline and artwork with Wick.

For the theatre alleyway, Peggy Raftis has offered to paint murals on the side of the theatre wall. Prior to, Erin Raftis will investigate the cost of panels. The committee would like to proceed with painting the side of Homestyle Bites building bright colours. Jan Campbell shared that she has scaffolding that could be used to reach the top. The committee suggested asking the high school if they would like to partner on painting the wall. This project would be aimed for June.

c. Grant Project Discussion

The committee reviewed the grant application idea to create a trail that leads through the downtown and connects all the parks. Raftis noted the application has not yet been released but will look into applying when it is.

The committee discussed what would be applied for in the grant, including wayfinding signage, map stands, brochures, and a public art installation. The committee would be responsible for matching the funds and would need financial contribution from other partners to make the application stronger. Raftis asked the committee to brainstorm both

ideas as well as artists to approach. Current suggestions include to approach Mike Shannon or Ryan Leis with a budget to create a metal work statue. The committee would also be interested in a public art call out.

Raftis also shared an image submitted by a youth at the Grove Palmerston, who would be interested in collaborating on a pop-up photo booth.

d. Event Update

Lisa Leslie updated that she discussed a potential Monster Mash dance for kids ages 9-13 (grades 4-8) at this year's Halloween Haunt that would run from 7:30pm-10pm. She spoke with Minto Safe Communities who used to host dances who provided tips, including a recommendation to use our own speaker/Legion sound system to play music. Leslie requested use of the Home Hardware's popcorn machine and suggested we purchase pop for sale. The event would also have a small fee for entry. Before committing to this plan, Raftis will create a survey to gauge interest of those in that age range for attending a dance. A printed survey will be available at Halloween Haunt and Raftis will connect with Minto-Clifford Public School to request the survey make it into their newsletter. Leslie agreed to book the legion.

Peggy Raftis shared that the Egg-Scramble is well underway in planning and currently under-budget. There will be 6 stations, either crafts or activities. Cookies from Homestyle Bites, juice boxes, and water will be served. The event will start after the end of the Optimist Egg - Hunt in the Curling Club. Volunteers include Lisa and Mark Leslie, John and Patty Mock, Megan and Peggy Raftis, and Elysse Charlebois. Raftis did a call-out to the high school for volunteers but has not heard back yet. To include the businesses, Raissa Rogers visited downtown stores to create a business shopping passport and colouring contest. Prizes include a \$50 Think Minto First Gift Card for the business passport contest and 3 \$5 Think Minto First Gift Cards and chocolate bunnies for the colouring contest. Raftis will drop off packages to the business that afternoon, and Rogers will complete any left afterwards.

The committee discussed the Harriston Street Party. Raftis reviewed what is already scheduled including facepainting, balloons, DJ, foam party, running from 9am-2pm. The committee discussed alternative locations for the Foam Party now that it coincides with the car show. Leslie will investigate an option on her property and report back to the committee. The committee also agreed to avoid Food Trucks for this event. Raftis will work with businesses to create a menu to handout to the all the Car Show vendors as well as attendees. It will advertise what is open, any specials, and what businesses are licensed. The committee will discuss with the legion discontinuing the beer garden on the street, and instead providing large signage directing people inside, as well as including them on the menu. The committee will host a business decorating contest with prizes again, but businesses will be in charge of their own décor. Finally, the committee discussed kids' entertainment, which will be sponsored by Blessings to You for \$1000. Raftis will look to see if we could get two inflatables targeted at two different age ranges (Bouncy Castle & Axe

Throwing) within our budget. Loughran provided a contact number for a Zip Line (519-335-6801) and the committee also noted the Fall Fair had a rock-climbing wall the past year.

Caitlin Loughran noted that the Fire Department inquired about our interest in Hometown Christmas. They shared they are interested in offering tours of the fire hall/fire trucks along with meet and greet with Santa Claus. The committee agreed to promote their event but discontinue the Hometown portion held prior to the parade.

5. Adjournment at 9:24 a.m.