

Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2026

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM EDT

Location: Superior Township Hall, 3040 N Prospect Rd, Superior Township, MI 48198

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM EDT.

Members present:

- Sarah Devereaux
 - Michelle McIntyre
 - Patty Bradley
 - Kim Polzin
- Steve Kraft

Guests: Susan Bryan (Washtenaw County Water Resources Office)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with one amendment: the special guests (Susan and Brian) item was removed as they were not present. **Motion:** Michelle McIntyre **Second:** Patty Bradley

Public Comment

No members of the public were present. Public comment was opened and closed.

Reports

BOT August Report (Sarah Devereaux) The August Board of Trustees report was submitted to Angela prior to the meeting. No questions from committee members.

Ordinance Violations (Steve Kraft)

- Overall violation volume has decreased significantly; only a few letters currently outstanding
- Several cases are in active mediation or pending reinspection
- One case was reopened to a compliance plan; another is scheduled for reinspection
- Junk vehicle cases with no owner response: Steve will seek alternate contact information before escalating
- Zoning: a food truck/trailer policy was clarified; commercial vehicles must be fully screened and located in the rear of a property
- A neon green party bus trailer on MacArthur remains on Steve's to-do list; may have been removed
- Towing: the Sheriff's Office has confirmed its towing policy is active for abandoned or non-running vehicles; Wiard Road vehicles are a priority for removal
- A vehicle on Wiard Road (a Bronco with cardboard and duct tape on the driver's side window) was flagged; concern raised that someone may be living in it; Steve will drive by this afternoon

955 East Clark Compliance Update (Sarah Devereaux)

- Property is meeting milestones under the collaborative compliance plan
- Risk flagged: the property owner may miss the December 31 deadline to move a tractor and backhoe into the pole barn
- Original builder repriced 40% higher than quoted; a new builder has been engaged and permitting is progressing
- The property owner's wife passed away two weeks ago; grandson Travis has taken over coordination with the township and has been cooperative
- Steve is extending additional grace given the circumstances; a site visit is planned for late September or October
- Note: this is a 32-year-old problem; a modest delay is not considered critical

9075 Ascot Drive Compliance Update (Sarah Devereaux)

- Collaborative compliance plan is progressing well
- Steve will drive by the property this afternoon
- Two additional properties are being considered for the collaborative compliance program, including a longstanding problem property at the corner of Dix and Pharaoh

KPI Report (Sarah Devereaux) Not yet compiled. Will be developed in conjunction with the projects and goals work currently underway.

Old Business

Email Alias beautifysuperior@superior-twp.org

- The committee email alias has been set up and is forwarding to members' personal email accounts
- Patty Bradley did not receive the test email; a second test was sent during the meeting
- The process for monitoring and responding to incoming emails has not yet been established; this will be added to the October agenda
- All committee outreach should use the alias going forward

Projects and Goals

- Sarah Devereaux shared a one-page summary of her areas of responsibility and goals through year-end
 - Each committee member was asked to produce a similar one-pager by the end of next week
 - Purpose: to surface dependencies between individual workstreams and inform upcoming budget conversations
 - Sarah noted that budget discussions are beginning soon; presenting organized project plans will help the committee influence the process
 - Sarah's priorities include: roadside cleanup on Wiard, Geddes, and Prospect Roads; fall vendor cleanups; and improved litter-reduction signage informed by behavioral science research
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New Business

New Member Welcome: Kim Polzin Kim Polzin was formally welcomed to the committee. Kim is a Superior Township resident, former nurse of 20 years, and current web designer. She connected with the committee through Sarah Devereaux at Superior Day and through a neighbor, Dana Green. Kim's motivation to join stemmed from a Nextdoor public-shaming incident involving residents on compliance plans; she has since become a Nextdoor moderator. The committee expressed particular interest in Kim's background in hospice and senior care as a resource for connecting with the Washtenaw County seniors millage and related support programs.

Susan Bryan: Rain Gardens and Native Plants Susan Bryan from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Office attended briefly. Key information shared:

- Free site visits and advice are available to individual homeowners through the county website
- For organizations seeking to plant in public spaces, mini-grants of \$1,000 are available
- Susan's colleague Katie (who previously met with Patty and Michelle at the Superior/Geddes roundabout) emphasized that a maintenance plan is essential for any public planting project

- The committee discussed the potential to plant along non-motorized pathways on Geddes and Plymouth Road, citing Dexter Township's wildflower ditch plantings as a model
- The committee thanked Susan for attending; the consensus was that the prior meeting with Katie had provided the necessary detail

United Way Volunteer Portal (Patty Bradley)

- Patty set up the committee's presence on the United Way volunteer portal with assistance from Tiffany at United Way
- A volunteer opportunity for committee membership is now live on the portal, pointing to the Beautify Superior website and existing application
- The current volunteer application form was acknowledged to be too long and will be simplified
- The United Way portal requires volunteers to create a free account, which may be a minor barrier for some
- The committee discussed running both the United Way portal and a simplified internal form in parallel
- Next step: identify a specific project to post as a volunteer opportunity and test whether the portal generates additional volunteers

Committee Member Updates

Trinity Health (Michelle McIntyre)

- Michelle met with Shekinah Singletary, Trinity Health's point of contact
- Trinity holds two days of service annually (April and November), during which leadership commits to community volunteer work
- Trinity's focus is on high-impact, community-care situations; past partners include Health to Home, SOS, and Ozone Home
- Beautification projects alone may not align with Trinity's priorities unless framed around at-risk or senior populations
- Harvest Lane was identified as a potential fit: it has the lowest income levels and highest concentration of multigenerational households in the township, with many senior residents
- Individual units or floors at Trinity may also be open to independently adopting a volunteer area
- A follow-up meeting with Trinity is scheduled for November

Hyundai (Michelle McIntyre)

- This fall Hyundai is approving charitable contributions for 2027 and plans to include a \$2,500 line item for Beautify Superior for consideration.
- Caveat: their volunteer base consists of staff participating on personal time (evenings and weekends); paid time off is not provided, so turnout may be limited

- High-visibility projects near the Hyundai facility are the best fit; the Superior/Geddes roundabout was identified as the ideal location
- The \$2,500 may be used flexibly for site preparation, materials, and soil testing; it is not restricted to plant purchases
- Other grants (e.g., Botanical Fund, Anna Garden) restrict funds to plants only; combining funding sources is the intended strategy
- Steve: The township currently pays \$1,547 per roundabout per season for mowing; the committee noted this budget could potentially be redirected toward beautification
- Hyundai has requested recognition for their contribution; the committee discussed a small removable hanging sign beneath the main sign, which could be removed if funding lapses

Roundabout Planting Discussion

- No water source exists within the roundabouts; plantings must be drought-tolerant
- Options discussed:
 - Winter sowing of native grasses: low maintenance and drought-tolerant, but takes 2-3 years to establish
 - Alternative lawn mix (native violets, low-growing asters, clover, wood sorrel): blooms April-May; mow mid-to-late June
 - A combined approach: alternative lawn provides early spring color while native grasses establish over time
- Soil composition is unknown and likely clay or fill; soil testing is needed before species selection
- Bill at Wild Type was identified as a native plants resource
- The roundabouts were agreed upon as the appropriate starting point given their contained size and high visibility, with non-motorized pathways as a potential second phase
- Non-motorized pathway plantings (Geddes path in particular) could accommodate taller species such as milkweed, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, and blazing star; signage would be more readable for pedestrians than for drivers passing roundabouts
- Safety note: plantings along pathways should be set back at least 18 inches from the path edge

BOT September Report (Sarah Devereaux) The September Board of Trustees report was not completed prior to the meeting. Sarah will finalize it this evening and distribute to the committee for review. The report is due to the board by 5:00 PM on September 9. Committee members were asked to provide any feedback by 4:00 PM on September 9.

Documentation Hygiene (Sarah Devereaux) Tabled to the October meeting. Sarah noted that the Beautify Superior website is currently hosted under her personal GoDaddy account and would need to be separated before access could be shared with another member. Patty Bradley was asked to consider taking the lead on documentation going forward.

October Meeting Date and Time

October 6 is not available (Sarah Devereaux is facilitating a conference in Florida). The next meeting was set for:

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM

An evening time was selected to accommodate Michelle McIntyre's new daytime employment. All members confirmed availability.

Pleas and Petitions

None.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Action Items

- **Check for test email from the committee alias** (Patty) Second test sent during meeting; first test may have gone to spam.
 - **Add email alias response process to October agenda** (Sarah) Chain of command and response ownership not yet defined.
 - **Submit individual projects and goals one-pager** Each member to share by end of next week to surface dependencies before budget conversations begin.
 - **Prepare one-pager proposal for the Hyundai roundabout project** (Michelle) Include planting approach, soil testing needs, and maintenance plan; \$2,500 confirmed from Hyundai.
 - **Identify a volunteer project and post it to the United Way portal** (Patty) Test whether the portal generates additional volunteers; simplify the existing volunteer form at the same time.
 - **Distribute BOT September report for committee review tonight** (Sarah) Report due to the board by 5:00 PM on 9th September; committee feedback needed by 4:00 PM that day.
 - **Locate address for the Wiard Road Bronco and send to Steve** Vehicle has cardboard and duct tape on the driver's side window; concern that someone may be living in it.
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Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM **Location:** Superior Township Hall,
3040 N Prospect Rd, Superior Township, MI 48198