



**AMHERST COUNTY
ROUTE 29 BUSINESS
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**



MINUTES

DATE:	June 24, 2025
TIME:	4:00 PM
PLACE:	Administrative Office Comp

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Jones (Chair), Calvin Kennon, Dottie Rucker, Stacey Stinnett, Teresa Brooks, S.W. Martin, Nate Young, Tony McBride and Aaron Ferro.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Benita Unrue and Lori Saunders

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Correction to item number 4(C) to read: Johnsons Health Administration - 134 Elon Rd.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve amend the agenda with the change to item number 4(C) to read: Johnsons Health Administration - 134 Elon Rd.

Motion made by: Brooks

Second: Stinnett

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

Chair Jones asked that everyone present introduce themselves.

The committee welcomed the three applicants present that were applying for the mini-grants.

3. Approval of April 22, 2025 & May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

A. April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 22, 2025.

Motion made by: Kennon

Second: Brooks

Motion carried by a 8-0 vote. (Jones abstained)

B. May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 20, 2025.

Motion made by: Brooks

Second: McBride

Motion carried by a 8-0 vote. (Stinnett abstained)

4. Route 29 Business Beautification Mini-Grant

A. James Benkahla & Mike King - 3941 S. Amherst Hwy

Mr. Young stated that the applicant wishes to update and replace all windows, siding, shutters, improve the lawn and potentially remove overhead power lines and that the applicant is here to answer any questions from the committee.

The committee had some concerns about this being a residence, which wasn't the intent of the mini-grant. The applicant stated that this would be a mixed-use building, which could serve as a residence on the lower level but the upper level will still be used as commercial office space.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve Mini-Grant request for James Benkahla & Mike King in the amount \$4975.00

Motion made by: Kennon

Second: Martin

Motion carried by a 8-1 vote. (Brooks)

B. Warren Simmons Properties LLC - 128 Old Town Connector

Mr. Young stated that the applicant wishes to paint to refresh the structure and that the applicant is here to answer any questions from the committee.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve Mini-Grant request for Warren Simmons Properties LLC in the amount \$4618.00

Motion made by: Ferro

Second: Stinnett

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

C. Johnson Health Center Administration - 124 Elon Rd

Mr. Young stated that the applicant wishes to install a new sign. A representative from the Johnson Health Center is here to answer any questions from the committee.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve the Mini-Grant request for Johnson Health Center Administration in the amount of \$4375.00, contingent upon approval from the Planning Commission for the expansion of the Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor.

Motion made by: Brooks

Second: McBride

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

5. Power for Sign

A. Permanent power for the Madison Heights community sign.

Mr. Young stated that Specialty Exterminating has offered to allow the committee to bring power from their sign to illuminate the sign and flag at the community sign. The committee will need to enter into some type of agreement with the owner or direct staff to acquire permanent power service to that location.

Staff felt that VDOT and the County Attorney needed to be consulted.

There was a consensus amongst the committee that Mr. Young, Chair Jones and Mr. Kennon would set up a meeting to consult with the County Attorney and bring this discussion back at another time to the committee for an update.

6. Old/New Business

The committee discussed the youth participation section of the charter and stated that a term needed to be established. The committee had a discussion regarding the changes.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve language in the charter to read: There shall be one youth participant (YP) on the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee. The term will be for one (1) academic year, i.e., September through May. The Committee members are responsible for interviewing and selecting applicants for these positions. The mandatory requirements are: a resident of Amherst County between the ages of 16-20. The YP will be invited to provide input on all matters before the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee but will not cast votes.

Motion made by: Young

Second: Ferro

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

There was a brief discussion regarding replacing approximately five (5) trees along the corridor

that had died.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to allocate up to \$500 from the committee's budget per tree to replace the trees that have died.

Motion made by: Kennon

Second: Martin

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:

Motion to approve adjourn.

Motion made by: Young

Second: Stinnett

Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.


Chairman