

Barrier beautification update, 3.6.21

Hello and many thanks to all of you for wanting to be part of this effort. We've got quite a team assembled!

This email is to loop us all together, and keep you all current, as we will need to be nimble and collaborative. This is a quickly evolving project, we will work to keep you all informed.

Here's the 'team' as it stands right now, 3.6.21:

From the **Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee** to Reopen Portsmouth, working as logistics coordinators:

Alan Gold: alanegold@gmail.com

Anne Weidman: aweidman@jsainc.com

City of Portsmouth

All things pertaining to painting, managing and moving barriers:

Director of Public Works: Peter Rice price@cityofportsmouth.com

SAU52

Director of Career & Technical Education: Courtney Ritchings critchings@sau52.org

PHS Architecture and Woods instructor: Steve Jones sjones@sau52.org

Advisor for the EcoClub at PHS: Kim McGlinchey kmcglinchey@sau52.org

Interact Club advisor: Doreen George dgeorge@sau52.org

English teacher: Lisa McAllister lmcallister@sau52.org

PHS environmental science class: Dee Lapointe dlapointe@sau52.org

Construction/math class: Christine Stillwell cstillwell@sau52.org

Community mentors:

Mary Jo Brown, Brown and Company; color, art, design: mj.brown@browndesign.com

Brian Murphy, Placework; color, streetscapes, planter design: brian@placework.studio

Jackie Nooney, Jacquelyn Nooney Landscape Inc; planters, plantings, maintenance: jacquelyn.nooney@gmail.com

Update

Barrier painting

We had an initial kick off meeting on Friday 3.5.21 to assess logistics and realities.

First priority is barrier painting, very much impacted by temperature and humidity. During the week of March 8, DPW will organize the barriers, currently at the stump dump on Rt 33, moving them up onto 4x4 timbers, and spacing them appropriately for access for painting. DPW will evaluate coatings and provide charts for available color choices. We are looking to our community design professionals for color recommendations. Barriers will be one solid color allowing painting to happen fast and get the barriers deployed by the target date of April 1 (or Monday April 5)

If weather allows, we will plan on having a painting event at the stump dump on the weekend of March 20/21. (with weather contingencies of March 27/28, April 3/4). **This is a volunteer opportunity!** We expect a mid-morning start, allowing barriers to dry from overnight dampness.

DPW will provide paint and supplies. DPW and CTE both have a good supply of masks, disposable gloves and hand sanitizer. All Covid protocols will be in place.

Back-up plan: depending on our always-impossible-to-predict March weather, we may need to paint barriers in place downtown. If this happens, Peter Rice will lead the conversation as this has complications around safety and traffic flow.

Planter boxes

The planter box team will be Steve Jones, with community mentors Brian Murphy and Jackie Nooney. Brian is brainstorming napkin sketches on concepts, Jackie knows dimensions, drainage, basic rules for building planters that produce healthy plants. We should get a conversation started asap.

Plants and plantings

The ECO Club is interested in this and they could be the lead? Mentor Jackie Nooney has offered to help with plant choices, sourcing of potting supplies and plant stock, and maintenance suggestions. Jackie has decades of experience with planters in our stressful downtown environment. Her recommendation is that boxes be planted mid to late May.

Art

Restaurants are permitted to customize the dining side of their barriers. Our loose thought is that if there is interest, art students could create portfolios of dining-side design concepts for restaurants to consider, and students could then consult with individual restaurants to provide custom work. This is an evolving idea, happy for any thoughts or input. Dining-side art would be painted in place, downtown, during warmer weather, logically in the morning before restaurants open for business. Mentor Mary Jo Brown may have thoughts here.

Any additional street-side art is being held until we get barriers in place. Our community mentors, Mary Jo Brown and Brian Murphy will advise.

I may have missed categories and/or people? Please shoot me a note and I will edit! This is on track to be a powerful community collaboration and it will take quite a village to make it happen. Thank you so much for being a part of this get-it-done team!

Best regards,
Anne Weidman and Alan Gold