



**Super
Town of
Albion
Revitalization
Team**

www.albionstarteam.org

A member of OCRA's Downtown Affiliate Network,
associated with Indiana Main Street

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Lori Gagen on June 9, 2025. Secretary Gary Gatman was absent. Attendees: Steve Hook, Lori Gagen, Helen Newman, Everett Newman, Evonne Taylor, Kelly Spear, Kayla Traylor.

Call to Order

The Albion STAR Team meeting was called to order by President Lori Gagen at 5:42 p.m.

Minutes

No minutes were available for the annual meeting held on March 26. Secretary Gary Gatman has advised Lori he will submit minutes for review. Minutes of the April 2025 meeting were submitted by Lori Gagen. Helen made a motion to April minutes as presented; motion was seconded by Everett Newman. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of the quorum present.

Financial Statements/Information

Lori presented the financial report on Mary Ann's behalf. The total of all funds on hand, as of April 30, 2025, was \$16,786.44. \$3,814.56 of the funds available were noted as unrestricted.

Lori noted a reimbursement in the financial report for the costs of copying materials for the annual meeting, and Helen offered to print materials in the law office in the future at no cost. Lori reported new expenses of approximately \$50 so far to pay for flowers planted at the pocket park. Newmans reported a need for more mulch at the fountain; they plan to take care of it. Steve reported some expenses coming for supplies for Albionopoly.

The financial report was filed.

Volunteer Hours

A sheet was passed around for board members to record volunteer hours.

Old Business

The election of board officers was postponed from April due to the absence of the Secretary, Gary Gatman. Lori, in the meantime, asked Gary if he is willing to serve again in that role and he verbally agreed to do so. Lori updated the board members present and opened nominations for officers to serve one-year terms, ending in April 2026 (after the annual meeting.) Helen made a motion to renew the current officers in their positions: Lori Gagen, President; Steve Hook, Vice President; Gary Gatman, Secretary; and Mary Ann Troutner, Treasurer. Steve seconded the motion. Lori opened the floor for other nominations or further

discussion. With none stated, the vote passed unanimously. The current board officers are renewed for one more year.

Committee Reports

Organization (Lori Gagen, Chair)

- **2025 Work Plan project sheets** – Lori reminded members to use the Work Plan worksheets to organize their work.
- **Flowers at Bicentennial Park** – Lori reported that the pocket park flowers are planted and expressed thanks to Room-2-Room for their donation of four teal planters. Dirt was recycled from the previous square, plastic planters. Gary drilled holes in one barrel to allow drainage.
- **Flowers at Celebration Station** – Lori reported that Dawn should have two half-barrels available for use in the alley. Helen suggested planting Hostas in the alley, however concerns were expressed over the extreme, direct sunlight in that alleyway. Lori said she would follow up with Dawn.
- **Flower Watering** – Lori reported that the volunteers are lined up to help this summer. She also reported that the new watering tank with electric pump is ready to go and worked well the first time out, however there have been some issues with power since then that she will be troubleshooting.

Project Design (Dawn Jones, Chair)

- **Landscape at Fountain** – The Newmans have transplanted several perennials to the landscape and will be adding mulch. The board expressed their appreciation.
- **100 S Orange Mural Maintenance** – No updates were provided.
- **Gazebo Renovations** – No updates were provided. The group discussed contacting the Impact Institute for help. There is a report of bees that needed dealt with and Steve reported that the county took care of it. He also shared that Scott Lindsay looked at the gazebo and said he has no interest in the project, noting the poor condition the structure is in.
- **CN Day of Caring** – No updates.

Promotions (Mary Ann Troutner, Chair)

- **Summer Kick-Off May 30** – Steve reported that a new partnership with the Noble County Arc Foundations will bring a new feature to Albionopoly. Arc workers are making 30+ “houses” to be used in the game. Lori reported that a sponsor banner has been produced to recognize all square sponsors. Steve confirmed that Tara Norris will be the “banker” and that there is no emcee this year. The gameboard will be chalked out on Thursday, May 29 at 4:30 p.m. and volunteers can decorate on Friday.
- **Chain O’ Lakes Kiddie Games June 4** – No confirmed updates were available but members present believe that someone is taking care of activities.
- **Chain O’ Lakes Festival Parade June 7** – Kayla and Kelly made plans during the meeting to execute a plan to design and construct a courthouse clock tower for the parade float. The theme of the parade is “Honoring our past, celebrating our future”. Plans discussed including using the Albionopoly sponsor banner, balloons, tinsel, stars, and costumes to feature Kayla’s kids dressed up as judges to represent the “future”. Lori offered to provide photos showing courthouse tower views from the turn of the century (1900) and 2024. She will send those to Kelly to make banners. Decorating was set for June 5 at Newman & Newman’s garage.
- **Fall Celebration September 20** – No updates.
- **Scare on the Square October 24** – No updates.

Economic Development (Pattie Gatman, Chair)

- **Summer Sidewalk Sales** – No updates.
- **Ladies' Night** – No updates.
- **Small Business Saturday November 29** – No updates.
- **Christmas in the Village December 6** – No updates.

New Business

Evonne had reached out to Lori ahead of this meeting to express her willingness to vacate her seat on the board if someone else wants to engage. After some discussion, Evonne agreed to continue to serve and her participation was encouraged by all, with some board members expressing the same kinds of challenges Evonne has experienced getting to know people and resources available in Albion. Her peers will try to help her make those connections.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and was approved by unanimous consent. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Abion STAR Team board will be on Wednesday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Noble County Public Library.

- Submitted by Lori Gagen