



**Super
Town of
Albion
Revitalization
Team**

www.albionstarteam.org

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

Wednesday, August 25, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Gary Gatman

Attendees: Lori Gagen, Steve Hook, Mary Ann Troutner, Gary Gatman, Pattie Gatman, Evonne Taylor, Kelly Spear

Call to Order

The Albion STAR Team meeting was called to order by President Lori Gagen at 5:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

March 2025 annual meeting minutes were reviewed. There were no questions or amendments. A motion was made to approve the minutes. There was a second to the motion followed by a unanimous vote to approve the February meeting minutes. There was not a quorum for the June meeting, so no official business was conducted and there was a no meeting in July.

Financial Statements/Information

Mary Ann (Treasurer) shared an update with the team for financial statements ending July 31, 2025. The current bank balance was reported to be \$21,539.63. Insurance is due in August, and payment will be reflected in the August financials. There was a motion to approve the financial statements as presented, there was a second, and the team voted unanimously to approve. There were no new expenses/checks to be reviewed for reimbursement.

Volunteer Hours

Lori sent around the volunteer hours tracking sheet and reminded board members to come to each meeting ready to report on their volunteer hours.

Organization Committee

Lori shared that the downtown watering schedule has been going well and the new golf cart with the water pump is making a big difference.

Project Design Committee

- The fountain was weeded by Lori and Dan Gagen and is looking great. There may be a need for a bit of mulch but otherwise the fountain represents the downtown well.

- Central Noble School's Day of Caring is Friday, September 12 and several projects were discussed for the high school students to tackle including weeding the fountain again, splitting hostas in an alley, painting a wall behind the Mariachi restaurant, and possibly some mural work at Newman's law. Steve Hook is coordinating with Central Noble Schools and any additional thoughts on projects can be forwarded to Steve.

Promotion Committee

The Fall Celebration is nearly here (September 20) and the following plans were discussed to ensure a successful event:

- Chalk Walk - There is a new chalk walk activity for families and businesses to compete for the best chalk drawing on one of the sidewalk squares around the courthouse. The Commissioners have granted approval for the event but did request on-site supervision during the event and clean up within 3 or 4 days. The event will not cost participants anything in this first year and promotion of the event has begun. Awards for the best chalk drawings could include a People's Choice award and a STAR Team award. The event will be held from 10AM to noon around the courthouse square with awards announced at 1:30. The STAR Team thanked Kelly for her hard work bringing this new event to the Fall Celebration.
- Decorations - The courthouse square will need to be decorated for the event with a fall vibe. Gary and Lori will connect with a local farmer and make arrangements to secure corn stalks for decorating. Pattie will contact a local pumpkin farmer to see if we can get a donation of pumpkins. Keith Leatherman will bring a couple of straw bales downtown for the event.
- Music – Evonne and Randy Taylor are working to get a couple of musical acts to perform during the fall celebration. Mary Ann will follow up with the Mariachi restaurant to see if they will bring a mariachi band downtown for the festival again.
- Merchants – Several merchants are planning sales and other activities to take place during the fall celebration.

Everyone was reminded that the Scare on the Square (Halloween trunk or treat event) is scheduled for October 24th.

Economic Development Committee

Small Business Saturday is being planned again in coordination with the Albion Chamber. The event will mirror last year's very successful event with prize drawings being made available to shoppers who shop downtown on small business Saturday. The Committee, again in concert with the Albion Chamber, is also looking at a Christmas event this to coordinate with the Christmas in the Village event. The event would ask downtown merchants to each decorate and theme a Christmas tree. Downtown visitors can vote on their favorite tree by making small donations at each merchant location. All donations collected will be given to a local charity. Prizes will be made available to merchants whose trees get the most votes/donations.

Old Business

- The Town of Albion received 2 proposals in response to their solicitation for ideas on how to best use the old town hall – one from the STAR Team and one from a local businessperson. The town is exploring options and is securing the necessary appraisals of the property to move forward.

- Two quotes were received to repair the Gazebo on the courthouse square – one from Diehm Properties LLC and one from Troyer Construction Services. After considerable discussion about both quotes and their proposed work, a motion was made to approve the quote from Troyer in the amount of \$8,385. There was a second to the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve the Troyer quote. Lori will share this with the Commissioners and get their support before work begins.
- The mural outside the Fox Den has been taken down (due to extensive weather damage) by a local contractor. The frame was saved so a replacement mural of the same size can be mounted on the building when available. Lori has a good number of hi-res pictures of the old mural and options for putting up a replacement mural with the same imagery are being discussed.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and was approved by unanimous consent. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.