

**Town of Boscawen
Beautification Committee
116 North Main St
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 5:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Nancy Towle, Leah Milano & Bill Bevans – Ex-Officio

Members Absent: Beverly Drouin – Vice Chair

Staff Present: Kara Gallagher – Planning & Community Development Assistant & Recording Secretary

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 5:33 PM and completed roll call.

Minutes:

Ms. Towle motioned to approve the 7/25/23 Beautification draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Ex-Officio Bevans. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Chair Keegan said there were two accounts; one was Roundabout Donations and the other was Beautification Donations. Ex-Officio Bevans summarized the Financial Report, with a breakdown of the total donations, revenues to date and expenses to date.

Ex-Officio Bevans motioned to approve the Financial Report through 10/10/23. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

Welcome New Member: Chair Keegan welcomed Ms. Milano and asked her to introduce herself. Originally from Massachusetts, she moved to NH about 15 years ago, and then to Boscawen 1.5 years ago. She is a consultant for healthcare finance. Ms. Milano loves to hike, mountain bike, kayak, trail run, and loves anything to do with the outdoors. Her boyfriend has lived in Boscawen for over 20 years, built his own house, and is very knowledgeable about Boscawen's history. She's very excited to continue to learn about Boscawen and help to make it beautiful.

Dave Murray Gift: Chair Keegan suggested the Committee send a thank you letter to Mr. Murray for his donation of mums. PCD Assistant Gallagher and Chair Keegan will work together to draft a thank you letter.

Old Business:

Tremont Street Sign: A photo was provided by Chair Keegan of the work being done to prepare the posts for the new sign. Mr. Dan Nudd from Briar Hydro was completing the work. The holes were dug by Public Works Director Dean Hollins and his crew. The granite pillars were provided by Swenson Granite. The creator of the sign, Casey Grenier, was very happy to hear the installation was complete. The cost ended up

being about a third of the original estimate, thanks to Mr. Nudd and a friend at Swenson Granite. Briar Hydro donated \$1500 towards the total expense. There may be a small balance, and Chair Keegan has asked if Briar Hydro will donate the remainder to the Beautification Committee. Chair Keegan is waiting for a response.

Historic Sign at Church Park: Ms. Milano has trimmed around the sign. She said some of the wood in the sign needs to be replaced. She thinks the borders should be painted because the paint is peeling. The sign itself is in good shape. The bushes underneath the middle of the sign have died back for the most part. She suggested planting perennials in the spring. These won't require a lot of maintenance and will come back every year. Planting annuals would bring a pop of color each season.

Roundabout Update and Status: Mr. Jeff Abbe reported very little water was used at the roundabout this year. Chair Keegan will keep an eye on the area while Mr. Abbe is out of town. A donation of mums was made by Mr. Dave Murray. Chair Keegan has done some weeding but there is still work to be done on the walkway to the flag. There have been no issues with irrigation. Chair Keegan thinks the roundabout is in good shape.

Town Office Planting: Ms. Towle said the flowers are full of blooms and look spectacular. The gazebo was decorated by Ms. Towle and looks very festive for fall. She decorated it differently from last year to switch things up. She said the Police Station planters are maintained at least twice a day in the summer and looked great. The 'little oak tree' looks better. A lot of the tree was naked with bare branches and only a few leaves at the top. Ms. Towle spoke with an arborist from Bartlett Tree Services, and he said it should've been sprayed a long time ago for Spongy Moth. At the point of discovery, it was too far past the time frame for spraying and couldn't be done. Bartlett Tree Services fertilized the tree for free and it's looking much better.

Adopt-A-Spot: Volunteers Rick & Laura Swanson left the existing perennials and planted new ones around the Jamie Welch Park sign. Ms. Towle thinks annuals would be better to provide more color. Ms. Towle will follow up to see if they will keep the spot for next year.

Other Business:

Asian Jumping Worms: Chair Keegan sent out a flyer about the Asian Jumping Worm. They can be very destructive and cause a lot of damage. Ms. Towle said they heard about it last year or the year before at Black Forest Nursery. An acquaintance of Ms. Towle said there have been 6 reported cases. Chair Keegan asked if there was any prevention. Ms. Towle suggested asking Ms. Suzanne Maze, owner of Black Forest Nursery. The main reason for Chair Keegan's concern is the Community Garden. Chair Keegan will discuss this topic with the Agricultural Commission. He said the eggs can be on the roots of potted plants and are very difficult to see. Once the plants are put in the ground the worms emerge and spread. Ms. Towle suggested erecting a sign at the dump for the proper disposal of old flowers and brush to avoid further spread. Ex-Officio Bevans will touch base with Public Works Director Hollins about the Asian Jumping Worm and the proper disposal of old flowers and brush.

Economic Development Committee 1st Annual Pumpkin Walk & Ride: Chair Keegan distributed the flyer for the Economic Development Committee's 1st Annual Pumpkin Ride & Walk. The event will take place on Saturday October 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Boscawen Town Park by Jamie Welch Field. There will be many activities for the whole family including a costumed bike ride, a bike repair workshop,

pumpkin painting and scarecrow craft build workshop, rail trail history walk, kids costumed rail walk, a tail gate party and vendor booths. The event will take place rain or shine.

Pending Tasks:

- Ms. Towle will follow up with Rick & Laura Swanson about the Jamie Welch sign.
- PCD Assistant Gallagher and Chair Keegan will draft a letter to Dave Murray.
- Chair Keegan will call Suzanne Maze about the Asian Jumping Worm.
- Chair Keegan will talk to the Agricultural Commission about the Asian Jumping Worm.
- Ex-Officio Bevans will talk to Public Works Director Dean Hollins about the Asian Jumping Worm and the proper disposal of old flowers and brush.

Next Meeting: TBD

Ms. Milano motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.