

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

Members Present: Chair—John Keegan, Vice Chair—Beverly Drouin & Nancy Towle

Staff Present: None

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 5:30 PM.

Roll Call: Completed and no guests.

Minutes:

Ms. Drouin motioned to approve the Beautification Minutes of 01.10.2023 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Nancy Towle. All in favor. None Opposed.

Financial Report:

Ms. Drouin noted there have been no expenses to date. There have been \$70 in donations to date. The Roundabout and Beautification balances were rolled over from last year.

Ms. Drouin motioned to approve the Treasurer Report through 04.10.2023 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Tremont Street Sign: The Select Board asked the Beautification Committee to make a recommendation on where to put the gifted Tremont St. sign. Chair Keegan suggested putting the sign on the Penacook side of the bridge. If coming from the Penacook side, it would be right before crossing the bridge. The sign would be protected by the guardrail and is in Boscawen. Chair Keegan needs to inform Town Administrator Katie Phelps and Public Works Director Dean Hollins where Mr. Jeff Abbe put the stake. Ms. Drouin asked who they need to contact from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for permission to put up a sign on the street. Chair Keegan will reach out to PWD Hollins. Ms. Towle suggested putting a spray coat of a clear UV to protect the sign from the weather. Chair Keegan noted the donor of the sign already coated it with protection. No further discussion.

NHDOT King Street Project: Chair Keegan spoke with the engineer in charge of planning for the NHDOT King St. project. The rework on King St will stop at the River Road intersection. There would be no impact on the Main Street/Bypass intersection based on current information. The engineer indicated that due to the geology at the intersection, it would be a major undertaking

which is an incentive to avoid that area. For those reasons, Chair Keegan said the status of the intersection would probably remain the same. Chair Keegan has also reached out to the NHDOT District Engineer but has not heard back. At this point, there is nothing the Beautification Committee can do in terms of irrigation at the King St. intersection. Ms. Drouin recommended doing a variety of smaller projects instead of one project with huge financial implications. Chair Keegan asked Ms. Towle about her plans for this summer at the intersection. Ms. Towle noted that they previously discussed trying to get a spot at the intersection where she could draw water, not an irrigation system for all the islands. Chair Keegan noted any work on the intersection by a town entity would require a written agreement with NHDOT. The Committee previously discussed going under two roads and putting a watering device on the side of the road. Ms. Drouin presented an idea to put a highly visible garden on the hillside. Discussion ensued. The district engineer would need to approve the garden. The Committee will discuss the idea further for future plans.

Municipal Office Irrigation: The Committee has no irrigation plans for this year. Chair Keegan will contact the gentleman who made the bid for the Municipal project and let him know the Committee won't be moving forward. There was discussion about the status of their Beautification budget. Ms. Towle said last year she believed \$200 was given to the Beautification Committee and \$500 to Black Forest Nursery. Discussion followed. Chair Keegan will reach out to Finance Director Kate Merrill or TA Phelps to find out the status of the 2023 Beautification Committee's budget.

Roundabout Plans: Chair Keegan noted Mr. Abbe will still be helping with the Roundabout. Previously the Committee discussed the potential need to refresh the mulch. Discussion followed. Chair Keegan explained the issues are the distribution of the mulch across the roundabout and the need to refresh the mulch or not. Ms. Towle and Chair Keegan will set-up a time with Mr. Abbe to go to the roundabout and assess the need, or not, for mulch. Chair Keegan noted the Committee must identify what plants are needed. Ms. Drouin suggested asking Mr. Abbe to take inventory on the plants that need to be replaced. All concurred. Chair Keegan spoke with Mr. Abbe about controlling the weeds around the perimeter this summer as well. Ms. Towle suggested contacting NHDOT to fix the crooked markers around the perimeters of the roundabout 'islands'. Discussion ensued. Chair Keegan will ask PWD Hollins who to contact at NHDOT to fix/replace the highway reflectors.

Gardening Plants & Gazebo Plans: Ms. Towle volunteered to maintain the gardening plants at the Municipal Building. Committee members asked how they could help with the maintenance. Last year, Ms. Towle watered the grass around the lilac section on the side of the building going up into the entry way. After the grass started growing, she had a nursery employee mow and weed the area, including around the brick edge. Chair Keegan suggested asking PWD Hollins to incorporate the lilac section/building front into his current mowing routine. Ms. Towle explained that with the garden center growing, she will not be able to have these tasks completed among others. She will water the two police planters and maintain the garden side of the entrance at the Municipal Building. Once the flowers are planted around the flagpole and library sign, members will need to delegate who will water them. The flowers at the flagpole will need to be watered every other day,

depending on the heat. When it starts to get warm, they will need 5 to 6 gallons of water at the flagpole. Ms. Towle will put together examples on how to evaluate the amount of water needed. The sunflower at the library sign will need to be watered every day. Ms. Towle will still be fertilizing and spraying both areas. Chair Keegan asked Ms. Towle if it would be helpful for members to help with the entryway plantings. Ms. Towle recommended asking the Agricultural Committee if they would volunteer to help with the plantings. Chair Keegan will ask AgComm at their upcoming meeting. Ms. Towle will put together a proposed schedule for planting. Ms. Drouin asked about plan for the Gazebo. Ms. Towle plans to decorate in the fall with annuals. Plans were discussed about starting to prepare by digging up soil and fertilizing to plant perennials at the Gazebo. Ms. Towle reported she fertilized the area after the Gazebo was stained. She expressed concern that perennials would interfere with planting annuals in the fall. She also noted that the perennials would need to be maintained. Discussion ensued. The Committee decided to follow the 2022 Gazebo plans.

Other Business:

Committee members reviewed their pending tasks. Chair Keegan has not found out the start/end dates of the Town's fiscal year. He will ask FD Merrill. Ms. Drouin is working on the annual work plan outline. After she creates the outline, Chair Keegan and Mr. Abbe will help fill in the data related to the roundabout. Ms. Towle has watered the trees around the Town Office and will do further research on fertilizing. Ms. Towle will ask Town Forester Charlie Niebling for his recommendations on the type of fertilizer and how much to apply. Chair Keegan will remove the Bittersweet from the lilac bush on the left side of the stairs at the front of the Town Office building. Ms. Towle reached out to Ms. Suzanne Maze about her idea to advertise 'Learning How to Garden'. The idea is for people to sign-up to learn how to garden and Committee members would help educate them. Ms. Maze suggested the most effective way is to ask individuals directly if they would like to be a part of the Beautification Committee. Ms. Towle said Ms. Maze noted in the City of Franklin's Beautification Committee Chairperson contacts all their volunteers when they are ready to do a project, such as planting. Many come, do the work but do not participate as Committee members. Ms. Drouin suggested making the library sign, flagpole, 2 containers and garden plantings, community volunteer efforts. This might make the Committee more visible, and build volunteer interest. Chair Keegan noted town volunteers would be subject to insurance requirements. Which would be similar to the process followed with the roundabout volunteers. Ms. Drouin noted the Committee needs to be open to releasing some of it's control to volunteers to step into gardening tasks. The goal in the long run, is to cultivate a new generation who, hopefully, will carry out this work. Ms. Drouin will reach out to an individual to see if there is interest in volunteering, potentially, at the Historical Society.

Ms. Drouin noted Ms. Debbie Miller suggested another Adopt-A-Spot at the Plains Cemetery. Her idea is to put whiskey barrels in and/or planters hanging on the railings. Ms. Drouin noted at one of the budget meetings, an individual pointed out the Select Board reduced the Beautification budget. The individual reminded leadership that King Street wasn't the only area needing beautifying in Boscawen. Discussion ensued. Ms. Towle suggested planting flowers at the

Historical Society. At the budget meeting, Ms. Elaine Clow mentioned there has been minimum staff due to members passing away. Chair Keegan will reach out to Ms. Julie Fournier, a member of the Historical Society, about the potential of making the Historical Society an 'Adopt-A-Spot'. Ms. Drouin will ask Ms. Miller if she would be interested in adopting the Historical Society.

Pending Tasks:

- Chair Keegan will check with PWD Hollins on who to contact at NHDOT concerning straightening signs and reflectors at the roundabout.
- Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Fournier about beautifying the Historical Society.
- Chair Keegan will contact Kate Merrill about the Town's Beautification budget.
- Chair Keegan will ask AgComm if they would be willing to volunteer with plantings at the municipal building.
- Ms. Drouin will contact Ms. Miller about the Historical 'Adopt-A-Spot' idea.
- Ms. Drouin and Chair Keegan will delegate the maintenance of the library sign and flagpole.
- Ms. Towle will maintain the 2 planters at the Police Station and the garden at the Municipal Building.
- Chair Keegan and Ms. Towle will set up a time this month to meet with Mr. Abbe to discuss the bark mulch.

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 15th, 2023, at 5:30pm.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Drouin; Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner