

**Town of Boscawen
Beautification Committee
116 North Main St
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 6th, 2023, at 5:30 PM**

Members Present: Chair John Keegan, Nancy Towle & Bill Bevans—Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Katie Phelps—Town Administrator

Excused: Vice Chair Beverly Drouin

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

Roll Call: completed and guests introduced.

Minutes:

- Town Administrator Katie Phelps requested one change, line 64, correct ‘Nursesey’ to ‘Nursery’.
- TA Phelps requested one change, line 136, change ‘Roundabout’ to ‘Municipal Office’.

Ms. Nancy Towle motioned to approve the Beautification Minutes of 05.15.2023 as amended. Seconded by Ex-Officio Bill Bevans. All in favor. None Opposed.

Financial Report:

The Beautification Committee discussed the expenses presented in the Financial Report. Ex-Officio Bevans noted the stone cleaner and fertilizer costs were applied to the Roundabout expenses. Discussion ensued. The total expenses remained the same, but the allocations need to be corrected. Chair Keegan clarified that the stone cleaner cost should be applied to the Beautification expenses. He will reach out to Mr. Jeff Abbe to clarify whether the fertilizer was used for the Roundabout or the trough on Main Street. Chair Keegan will also follow up with Finance Director Kate Merrill to update the financial report with the necessary corrections.

Chair Keegan motioned to transfer the cost of the stone cleaner to the Beautification expenses. Furthermore, to keep the fertilizer cost in the Roundabout expenses pending confirmation from Mr. Abbe. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Adopt-A-Site Status: Ms. Towle gave an update on the volunteers for Adopt-A-Spots. Mr. Rick Swanson and his wife Laura adopted the Jamie Welch sign and Fire Chief Tim Kenney volunteered

to maintain the Impatiens and whiskey barrels at the Fire Station. Ms. Towle and Chief Kenney discussed the challenges last year with maintaining the yellow daisies, and this year Ms. Towle will find low-maintenance plants. Furthermore, they discussed planting around the Smokey the Bear sign. Chair Keegan inquired about the ownership of the land around the Jamie Welch sign. Ms. Towle clarified that Mr. Swanson would only plant around the signpost itself. Chair Keegan was concerned it might cause an issue with the abutting property owners. Discussion ensued. TA Phelps will determine the exact width of the right of way, to provide clarification on the ownership.

Ms. Towle noted from a previous discussion with Mr. Swanson that some of his gardening friends may be interested in Adopt-A-Site. She will follow up with him. Furthermore, Ms. Towle spoke with Mr. Charlie Niebling about the oak tree near the Municipal Complex sign. He will inform Ms. Towle about any future maintenance needs for the tree.

Granite Cleaning Results: Chair Keegan and Ex-Officio Bevans cleaned the granite signs at the Municipal Complex using Simple Green Granite Cleaner. The signs had lichens and a black fungus like material that appears to be causing the stains on the face of the granite. Chair Keegan noticed some improvement but suggested using a stronger option, D2, to address this staining as well as the stain under the bracket that holds up the library sign. Chair Keegan stated the D2 cleaner will be more costly than the Simple Green, as much as \$70 more, for the same size container. Ms. Towle noted she previously tried a homemade mixture on the bracket stain and had no success. Chair Keegan was able to remove some of the staining but there are still spots that need a stronger cleaning solution. Chair Keegan will contact Mr. Bill Murphy, who may have had success with removing similar stains at the 1913 Library. At this point, the Committee will monitor the stains and utilize the remaining Simple Green cleaner as needed.

Roundabout Update: At the last meeting, it was decided that Chair Keegan, Ms. Towle and Mr. Jeff Abbe would meet at the Roundabout to assess the needs. They found that half a dozen or so of the perennials didn't make it through the winter and needed to be replaced, as well as new flowers planted around the sign. After that, Mr. Abbe contacted Colby Lumber about bark mulch. They offered to donate a truckload of hemlock bark mulch. Currently, there is no specific delivery date set, but Mr. Abbe is working to arrange trucking. Chair Keegan reported the water will be turned on June 7th. There are still some weeds on the path but most of the planting areas and the perimeter have been weeded. Chair Keegan noted the top corner of the 'Welcome to Boscawen' sign has rotted. He will discuss repair or replacement plans with Mr. John Porter and Mr. Abbe. Chair Keegan will recommend removing the top piece of the roundabout sign and replacing it with the same top piece from North Water Street sign. The sign on North Water Street has had less exposure to the weather and is in good shape. Chair Keegan will present the idea to the Agricultural Commission next week. Ex-Officio Bevans recommended using 'Bondo' filler to repair the corner if there is sufficient 'base' material in place. Ex-Officio Bevans volunteered to rebuild the top of the Roundabout should there not be sufficient base to use 'Bondo'. He has plenty of wood in various sizes. They will discuss repair options further at the AgComm meeting.

Municipal Office Plantings Update: Ms. Towle informed committee members that she will be on personal leave starting August 6th until next year. She will keep the committee informed on the

exact date of her leave. Currently, Ms. Towle is responsible for maintaining the flowers around the Municipal Building, Police Station, Flagpole and Library sign. Chair Keegan noted he, along with the other Committee Members will review the watering schedule and divide the responsibilities among themselves.

Follow-Up Reports: Chair Keegan noted there was no update on the Historical Society's view of the chain link fence. The Committee previously discussed a suggestion to take down the fence because it blocks the entrance. Furthermore, there was a suggestion to put in a bench in honor of Henrietta Kenny. Chair Keegan said Ms. Elaine Clow was going to ask for input from other members of the Society. Ms. Towle mentioned Ms. Suzanne Maze, owner of Black Forest Nursery, offered to donate a bench, assuming the Society agreed to remove the fence. At this point, it is wait and see.

At the prior meeting, there was discussion about creating a Boscawen Gardening Club. Ex-Officio Bevans had mentioned Webster Garden Club as a model. He reached out to Denise Lawless for more information but has not heard back.

New Business:

Ex-Officio Bevans volunteered to trim the growth around the Church Park Sign. He will contact the church for permission. Ms. Towle noted the back of the "Famous Men and Women" sign needed repair. Ex-Officio Bevans will check the current condition and speak with Church representative(s) about permission to work on the sign.

Chair Keegan reported he will be away from June 29th to July 18th. He suggested holding the next meeting later in July when he returns. If necessary, Vice Chair Beverly Drouin can call a meeting. Discussion ensued on the next meeting date. The Committee picked two dates, Tuesday, July 25th or Tuesday, August 1st. Ex-Officio Bevans preferred August 1st. Chair Keegan will consult with Vice Chair Drouin about her preference and inform TA Phelps.

Ms. Towle mentioned, Ms. Drouin previously discussed putting an article in the Newsvine to ask for/promote gardening volunteers. Chair Keegan noted the article was posted in the Newsvine a couple of months ago. Ms. Towle suggested submitting another article for the summertime. Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Drouin to ask her to draft an updated article. TA Phelps will advertise on the town website and work with Ms. Towle on the graphics.

Pending Tasks:

- Chair Keegan will reach out to Mr. Jeff Abbe to clarify the fertilizer cost.
- Chair Keegan will follow up with Finance Director Kate Merrill to update the financial report.
- Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Drouin about posting the volunteer article in the Newsvine.
- TA Phelps will create visuals to accompany advisements for gardening volunteers on the town website and Facebook page.

- TA Phelps will research further information on the town right of way at the Jamie Welch sign.
- Ms. Towle will follow up with Mr. Swanson on potential Adopt-A-Spot volunteers.
- Ex-Officio Bevans will contact the church about trimming the hedges around the Church Park sign.

Next Meeting: TBD

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Ms. Towle at 6:10PM. Seconded by Ex-Officio Bevans.
All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner