

**Town of Boscawen
Circle Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 1st, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan, Chairman, Julie Fournier-Vice Chair, Jeff Abbe & Beverly Drouin

Excused: Paul Dickey - Ex-Officio

Others Present: Lorrie Carey, Monica Matthews, Kearsten O'Brien- Planning & Community Development & Hannah Gardner- Recording Secretary

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Chair Keegan read off the Covid-19 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads as follows: In light of the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chair has determined that an emergency exists and that accordingly, until further notice, (a) members of the board may attend all board meetings telephonically, without the physical presence of a quorum; and (b) members of the public who wish to participate in hearings may, on request, participate telephonically or submit comments in writing to be included in the record of the hearing.

Roll Call: completed and guests introduced.

Draft Minutes: Motion made by Beverly Drouin to accept the 01.11.21 minutes as presented. Seconded by Jeff Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

Accountant Report: Reviewed Balance through December of last year is \$3,823. This doesn't reflect funds received since the 1st of the year.

Ms. Beverly Drouin stated they received a donation of \$2000 from Ross Express. Mrs. Kearsten O'Brien stated that Anonymous donated \$100.

Motion made by Beverly Drouin to accept the financial report through December of last year as presented. Seconded by Jeff Abbe. All in favor. None Opposed.

Old Business:

- **Activity Update:** Chair Keegan reported, as a possibility that Mason Donovan may donate \$1000 towards the roundabout budget. He was supposed to contact Mr. Alan Hardy, but he has yet to do so.
- **Pending Tasks:** Chair Keegan stated there is a pending request for \$2,000 with Avaloch Farms Musical School and \$700 with Huckleberry Propane and Oil Company. Mr. Abbe is contacting the KSD furniture company on High Street to see if they would donate \$700.
- Ms. Drouin submitted an article to the Boscawen News Vine. She will write one article a month.
- Ms. Drouin will write and send out a 'Thank You' letter to the Anonymous Donor. Chair Keegan asked Mrs. O'Brien if she posted Ms. Drouin's newsletter and poster on the Town website. Mrs. O'Brien stated she posted it on the Facebook page and Town website. Ms. Drouin stated that people have been viewing the poster on Facebook. She will revamp the poster once a month to keep it fresh for the public.

New Business:

The Committee accepted all of the plant recommendations made by Ms. Matthews listed in the left column below. The comments and discussion points related to the individual plant recommendation are in the right-hand column.

Plant	Comments
Common Winterberry	Dioecious. Likes water look for shorter and heavy berry set varieties. Ms. Drouin asked how many Monica would suggest putting in the garden. She stated 4-6. Native, slow grower, 3-5 yrs. Has a long growing season and easy to maintain.
Dappled Willow	Wonderful. Ms. Drouin asked if they would have to choose one over the other between the 'Common Winterberry' and 'Dappled Willow'. Monica stated she would do a couple of both. There is enough space to fit two across from each other on each side of the flagpole. Mr. Jeff Abbe asked if the 'Willows' require more water. This variety is drought tolerant.
Carl Foerster Grass	'Little Blue Stem' might substitute. Chair Keegan asked how it compares to 'Little Blue Stem'. It is similar in size. The 'Carl Foerster Grass' is more salt tolerant. It maintains its strength. The 'Little Blue Stem' tend to die out in the middle over time
Hollyhock	Susceptible to fungus & powdery mildew. What about a shorter variety? Monica stated this Hollyhock is a mildew resistant variety. In terms of fungus, because it's on the roundabout, it is unlikely it would be wet enough to cause problems. Mr. Jeff Abbe asked if they are less resistant to sub-seeding. This a hybrid variety. They are modified to only have ¼ of their seed be viable, so it slows their spread. Monica suggested starting as a plant, not from seed.
Perennial Sunflower	Tall, aggressive spreader and tends to break and sag. Another variety? Monica stated this variety doesn't particularly break or sag. Chair Keegan asked Mr. Abbe if this variety has been planted before in the Community gardens. Mr. Abbe said no but he has them in his garden and they are very durable. Monica stated they would be the backdrop to the 'Willows' and can be left standing over the winter.

False Indigo	YES, Are there shorter varieties? Batista Australis variety mentioned. (Not on pricelist post meeting)
Double Peony	YES. Mr. Abbe is concerned about the amount of time it from blooming. Monica stated they are longer bloomers than most peonies. (Price list is KARL ROSENFELD).
Hosta 'Sum & Substance	OK, but what about deer & sun/heat tolerance with all the hardscape surrounding the circle. Monica stated they won't dry out or become flaccid with hardscape because of their location placement in the garden. Like sun, super hardy.
Shasta Daisy 'Becky'	Are there other varieties with longer bloom time? Ms. Julie Fournier asked if there were other types of Daisy's that are longer blooming and wouldn't need to be dead headed. Monica said the purpose of these are to make the 'Hosta' pop. They don't need to be dead headed. The other variety is more yellow and not as salt resistant. Longest flowering of daisies.
Larkspur	YES, don't need to deadhead or stake.
Joe Pye Weed	Check for tendency to spread aggressively. Are there varieties that are shorter & less prolific? They are not spreaders; they are also hybridized.
Porcupine Grass	This may be considered an invasive. Check (Not invasive in NH per Doug Chygan) Messy appearance? You can't get an invasive variety at a nursery. Their appearance in the off-season is beautiful. They maintain most of their plumes and stability until they get buried. Monica stated she would cut it back in the Spring. They would be planted by the shrubs. (CAN GROW QUITE TALL IE8')
Hyperion Daylily	Is this a 'reblooming' day lily? Nice flower. Blooms mid-season to September.
Oriental Poppy Prince of Orange	YES, perfect height and sways in the breeze. Slow spreader, late bloomer.
Lupine 'Russel Woodfield Hybrid'	YES, does it reproduce from rhizomes or what? They are self-seeders. They start blooming in mid-June until middle of July or early August. Allow some plants to set seeds. Short lived.
Hosta 'Minute Man'	Nice, but same Hosta? See # 9 Heat and sun tolerant foliage color changes over the season. (NEEDS SPACE AND WATER MAY BE A CONCERN)
Columbine	Self sower and hard to remove. What about cone flower instead? The cone flower doesn't do well with salt. Mr. Abbe stated everything drains away from the flagpole so salt resistance isn't a large thing other than it's in the area. Monica stated it gets in the air. Height not an issue, spring bloomer. Cone flower is not salt tolerant.
Catmint 'Walkers Low'	Beautiful, there are other varieties with longer bloom June to August. Can cutback for a second bloom.
Yarrow 'Moonshine'	YES, Does this variety flop? Shorter hybrid, good border plant blooms all summer. (CAN BE AN AGGRESSIVE SPREADER).
Sedum 'Autumn Joy' Stonecrop	YES, great plant w/year-round interest. Attracts birds. Grows slowly. Blooms same time as Joe Pye Weed.
Artemisia	Tends to split and become unattractive. Substitute Calamintha here? Planted along walkways. Also called Silver Mound. Planted for color contrast. May split and require attention.
Blanket Flower 'Mesa Peach'	YES. Under used, tolerates salt flowers with 3 color phases: red, orange and yellow June-August.
Crested Iris	YES. Also called Woodland Iris or Dwarf Crested Iris.

Garden	<p>Chair Keegan noted that in general public gardens use as few, if any, self-seeders and creepers to minimize maintenance on the long run. Plants with these characteristics can present domination and control problems in the face of trying to maintain color and variety contrasts as well as timing seasonal flowering cycles over time.</p> <p>Chair Keegan asked Monica, what irrigation system (drip vs. watering heads) she would favor for the environment. She stated watering heads are better. With Drip irrigation, the drip doesn't actually go that far from the hose, only 3 to 6" so a sprinkler head system works better and uses the water more effectively to spread over the entire garden. If we use water heads, Monica suggested getting a head with a directional. Split into four quadrants in the center and run them at least 20 minutes (morning or evening). She prefers watering in the evening because plants are already trying to conserve their energy.</p> <p>Mr. Abbe stated they are supposed to stay at least 7 or 8 feet from the curb. He believes 10 feet would be better. Monica stated they can always move the heads back a couple of feet. Ms. Drouin will look back in the original drawing to see what the recommended set-back from the road was. Mr. Abbe stated at a minimum we should stay 7 feet back.</p> <p>Monica noted she works with wholesalers from whom she can get a quote for all the materials. She also can help with the placement and planting process. Ms. Drouin is interested in evaluating the different discounts.</p> <p>Chair Keegan told Monica the Committee will schedule an interview with Nancy Towle for her input and feedback. In terms of pricing, the Committee may be doing business with Nancy, but it would still be helpful to get a sense of what the plants would cost from more than one supplier.</p> <p>Chair Keegan asked how long it would take Monica to get the pricing information. Monica will provide the information in a few days.</p> <p>Ms. Drouin stated the flag walk and the town sign need to be surrounded with plants as well.</p>
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Chair Keegan updated the FAQ sheet to clarify how people should make their checks out. He will send it to Kearsten so she can post it.

Chair Keegan stated the Select board received a letter from the Water Precinct indicating that they can't provide unlimited free water for irrigation of the roundabout. They are limiting their donation to 10,000 gallons. Chair Keegan spoke with Doug Thompson about the contractor he uses for his irrigation system. Chair Keegan will get more information after contacting them. The Committee may need to use money donated from this project to purchase water. Preliminary data shows the precinct would be putting approximately \$100 per year towards their costs. Lorrie Carey stated that 10,000 gallons of water is roughly half of a regular standard size swimming

pool. That amount of water can get you through a regular summer, but a dry summer may not. She is disappointed with the amount of money the water precinct is donating.

Chair Keegan asked Mr. Abbe to talk to Dale Matthews about donating the use of his trencher that goes down to 4 feet. Mr. Abbe confirmed he will talk to Mr. Matthews. It would save \$300-\$500.

Ms. Drouin asked Chair Keegan if he wanted her to write a 'Thank You' note to Ross Express. He has not sent a thank you letter yet because the town has not received the check. Steve Brown, the Ross President, said he would send the check around the February 15th. When we have the check, Chair Keegan will write the 'thank you' letter.

Ms. Fournier asked when they will be meeting with Nancy Towle. They will set a date at the next meeting. Mr. Abbe recommended that they show Nancy Tole, Monica's ideas and presentation.

Next Meeting:

- Monday, February 22nd, 2021 @ 7 PM.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. Drouin; seconded by Mr. Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner