

Town of Boscawen
AGCOM Circle Committee
Keegan Residence
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM

1 Members Present: John Keegan, Jeff Abbe, Beverley Drouin, Julie Fournier

2 Guests Present: Bruce Crawford, Water Commissioner and Wes Neibling, Brown Stone Builders

3 Mr. Keegan opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

4

5 John Keegan asked Members present to review the January 21, 2020 draft minutes. Minutes
6 were approved unanimously.

7

8 **Old Business:**

- 9
- 10 • **Water/Electricity Access Update:** Bruce Crawford explained that the nearest feasible
11 water connection is hydrant # 77 on Fisher Ave. off Harris Hill Road. He is not sure the
12 diameter of the pipe to which the connection must be made. The line tap must be
13 supervised by Pennachuk personnel, at a cost to be determined (TBD) and done by an
14 approved contractor, at a cost TBD. Tom Beckly, an approved local contractor was
15 mentioned by Mr. Crawford as a resource. He identified EJ Prescott, Rte. 106 in
16 Concord as a reliable vender. He explained that the connection must also include a 'Back
17 Flow Preventer' and the key to close the line during the winter months. Mr. Crawford
18 suggested enlisting Mr. Hollins assistance with this set of tasks to the extent possible.
19 Asked about the depth of the line he said 4 feet. If the line can be blown dry at the end of
20 the irrigation season, 2 feet would suffice. According to Mr. Hardy the town has the
21 needed equipment. The precinct does not trench or lay line. Mr. Keegan has spoken with
22 Mr. Doug Thompson, owner of Thompson Lawn Care, who does have a trencher. Mr.
23 Thompson also needs to know the line pressure and the Gallons Per minute (GPM) flow
24 at the line tap as well as the line run to the circle. With these data, his supplier will be
25 able to calculate the size pipe needed to supply the 4 irrigation heads for the plantings.
26 Mr. Abbe will measure the run while Mr. Crawford will find the pressure and GPM
27 measurements. Mr. Crawford will need a letter from the Committee laying out our plan
28 for water use with an estimate of our annual use. The precinct will donate the water.
29 Mr. Crawford left detailed written instructions related to the points covered.
 - 30 • **Safety:** Mr. Abbe reported a local contractor, Sweat Construction, has won the State
31 contract for the bridge work scheduled this summer. He has spoken with the DOT person
32 overseeing the project who will be scheduling a pre-construction meeting with the
33 contractor to lay out the detail schedule for the work, among other items. Mr. Abbe plans
34 to attend the meeting to provide information about our circle work and to optimize our
35 scheduling to utilize the traffic control Sweat will be implementing. When Mr. Abbe has
36 this information we can schedule work at the circle.
 - 37 • **Planting Update:** Ms. Drouin met with Barbara Rollins, the DOT employee who designs
38 the plantings at circles, including Exit 17. Ms. Drouin presented her the design and plant
39 selection as well as the layout of walls. These items had been discussed at the January
31st Committee meeting. Ms. Rollins was favorably impressed with her plan and

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40 suggested specific varieties of some species. She liked the addition of the stone walls.
41 Ms. Rollins indicated a 3' setback form the edge of the planting area is sufficient based
42 on her experience at numerous similar sites. Discussion followed. Based on feedback at
43 this meeting, Ms. Drouin is planning another meeting with Ms. Rollins to explore specific
44 species availability, cost, desirable height of plantings, salt tolerance and other matters
45 related to the soil currently in the circle.(See below) The status and treatment of the soil
46 currently in the circle was another point discussed with Ms. Rollins. DOT planted 4
47 varieties Day Lilies totaling over 800 bulbs. Ms. Rollins suggested this is a resource that
48 could be used in our plantings. The Committee Members present view extracting the
49 bulbs, give the inherent difficulty of doing so along with the presence of a mat of
50 tenacious weeds would be a daunting, labor intensive process. Retrieving some bulbs for
51 the plantings would, however, be doable. Members also discussed the results of the soil
52 sample. PH is mildly acidic and the 3 major minerals are all below desired levels. Thus,
53 requiring soil amendments and/or additional fertile soil. Mr. Thompson, in conversation
54 with Mr. Keegan had suggested the best course might be to remove the soil to an area
55 near the circle, 'pick thru the soil for bulbs' then do several applications of an herbicide
56 over an unspecified period of time to kill the emerging weeds. Mr. Thompson has the
57 necessary equipment and licenses to complete these tasks. Herbicides only kill the
58 emergent weeds. Seeds are not killed. There was considerable discussion of options but
59 no consensus emerged, save the determination to only harvest a small percentage of the
60 Day Lilly bulbs.

61 Related to the plantings is the proposal by Ms. Drouin to include 3 stone walls in the
62 landscaping. To this end, Mr. Abbe invited Wes Neibling, a local stone mason, to meet
63 with the Committee to discuss the feasibility and cost of including this feature in the
64 circle. Mr. Neibling was a creative and engaging addition to the discussion. He laid out
65 the elements related to the cost including: type of stone, number of end points and design
66 complexity as well as different wall configurations, such as a circular wall vs. 3 free
67 standing walls. For budgeting purposes, he calculated the cost of the 80 'face feet' in our
68 current plan would be in the vicinity of \$4,000. He is willing to work with us on the cost.
69 Ms. Drouin, Messrs. Neibling and Keegan agreed to meet at the circle @10am on
70 Wednesday February 19th to plot how the aforementioned elements 'look on the ground'.

- 71 • **Financial Update:** The Committee currently has approximately \$2,000 available. Alan
72 Hardy is inquiring if the Town has a way to receive donations directly similar to the "Go
73 Fund Me 'model. Based on discussions at this meeting costs to complete this project
74 might total between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

75
76 The next meeting will be at the Town Office on March 9, 2020 at 6:00pm

77
78 **Adjournment: 7:30pm**

79 *Respectfully submitted, John Keegan*

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DRAFT



Town of Boscawen

116 North Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 | Telephone: 603.753.9188 | Fax: 603.753.9184

Agricultural Commission Members

John Keegan
Chair

Bill Bevans
Vice-Chair

Rusty Colby
Commissioner

Julie Fournier
Commissioner

Tina Larochelle
Commissioner

Josh Marshall
Commissioner

John Porter
Commissioner

Roger Sanborn
*Commissioner
Ex-Officio*

Planning & Community Development Staff

Kellee Jo Easler
*Planning &
Community
Development
Director*

Pam Hardy
*Planning &
Community
Development
Assistant*

Kearsten O'Brien
*Planning &
Community
Development Clerk*

Danielle Bosco
Recording Secretary

Circle Committee Activity Report February 18-19, 2020

From: John Keegan

To: Committee Members, Alan Hardy, Kellee Easler and Bruce Crawford

Date: February 20, 2020

February 18: Jeff Abbe measured the distance from Hydrant #77 on Fisher Avenue to the emergence (approximate) of the conduit that runs from the circle as 1,100 ft. He also established the following:

- Area of the planting in the circle: 3,960 sq. ft. or 440 sq. yd.
- Circle diameter: 71 ft. (radius 35.5 ft.)
- Soil in the planting area of the circle: @4 inch depth is 49 cu. yd.
- Placed a stake in the middle of the circle as a reference point for planning layout.

February 18: John Keegan visited EJ Prescott (EJP) to obtain the cost detail Bruce Crawford recommended the Committee obtain.

- Donald Demers took Mr. Keegan's contact information and said Robbie Maltov, a sales person, will contact him to deal with the specifics. **Pending as of 2.20.2020.**
- Spoke with FSB branch manager, about possible acceptance of 'Go Fund Me' like deposits so individuals could make donations using a credit or debit card in lieu of a check or cash donation to the Circle Fund. Currently, the bank does not take funds this way. If funds were received for the Circle they would go into a town account which is not feasible because it eliminates the BOS from their duty to accept and disburse all town funds.
- FSB branch manager suggested the Committee consider submitting a grant application to fund part of the circle beautification costs. Kellee and Kearsten have checked out the material and application forms. **Pending as of 2.20.2020.**

February 19: Wes Neibling, Bev Drouin and John Keegan went to the Circle to layout the planting and wall locations discussed and agreed to at the Committee meeting on the 17th.

- Outlined the 15 ft. center circle for the tree planting(s).
- Marked off the 3 ft. 'no planting skirt' around the edge of the circle.
- Located the 3, 12 ft. walls at approximately equidistant intervals around the circle set 4 ft. back from the skirt but not behind the 3 'chevron signs' located in the circle. Decided that the stone walls would be centered on a large boulder and then slope gently toward the ground on each side. This would necessitate a total length of 12 ft. rather than 8 ft.
- Identified where shrubs would be planted in relation to the stone walls.
- Identified where the 'Welcome to Boscawen' sign should be relocated to in the circle.