

**Town of Boscawen
Circle Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 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: 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 Ms. Beverly Drouin to accept the 02.01.21 minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Abbe. Three in favor. One opposed.

Mrs. Kearsten O'Brien stated one of the donors from the 02.01.21 minutes would like to remain anonymous.

Motion made by Ms. Drouin to strikethrough the donors name on lines 26 and 39 from the record. Seconded by Mr. Abbe. Three in favor. One Opposed.

Accountant Report: Reviewed Balance through 03.01.21 shows a little over \$300 short of their goal.

Mr. Jeff Abbe is pending contacting KSD furniture company and Razors Customs Autobody about possible donations.

Ms. Julie Fournier asked if there is a breakdown of what is going towards the plant materials versus the plumbing. Chair Keegan stated he will send out a copy of the budget that shows a breakdown.

Motion made by Ms. Julie Fournier to accept the financial report through 03.01.21 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Drouin. All in favor. None Opposed.

Old Business:

- **Activity Update:** Ms. O'Brien stated that at the Town Meeting Day they are thinking of having a table set up where people can learn about the Circle Committee and take a generic donation request. They can send it with a check to Ms. Phelps.

Motion made by Ms. Fournier to accept at Town Meeting Day to have a table with a generic Circle Committee donation request. Seconded by Ms. Drouin. All in favor. None Opposed.

- **Pending Tasks:** Mr. Abbe is awaiting the letters to take to KSD and Razors Autobody. He is waiting for Chair Keegan's signatures on the letters, the letterhead and corrected FAQ sheet. Ms. O'Brien is updating the FAQ sheet. It will be done tomorrow, 03.02.21.
- Mr. Abbe is waiting to talk to Mr. Dale Matthews about the trencher use. Chair Keegan has been dealing with Beth, Stateline Irrigation Supply, to put together the irrigation system. He also met with two Water Commissioners from the water precinct. They have a draft design but are still working on the details. Beth O'Brien, the Stateline Irrigation Supply designer, has a lot of experience and she has refined some of the parts/equipment needed. She suggested using drip irrigation rather than water heads. The primary reason is that we won't waste water unnecessarily including watering mulch. It is also the least expensive equipment. Doug Thomson will do the irrigation installation with his crew. Mr. Abbe is concerned drip irrigation could also be a waste of water with all the puncture holes in a drip line. Ms. Drouin stated with targeted gardens she thinks drip would be preferred. She thinks it depends on the design and how much watering we do. Ms. Julie Fournier explained there are two types of drip irrigation. The weeping irrigation for watering a bed versus a small hose watering specific plant. She believes the hose method should be used but clarify this with the contractor. Chair Keegan will do so.

New Business:

- Chair Keegan noted that subsequent to Ms. Matthews presentation of her garden design, the Committee discussed next steps. The consensus emerged that Ms. Fournier's statements that, "more relatively smaller planting areas, one around the Welcome to Boscawen Sign, another around the Flagpole were starting points. In addition, she favors focusing on 3 larger kidney bean shaped gardens (Garden). One each facing North, Route 4 West and Harris Hill Road. Each Garden would

have significant areas of bark mulch to set off their planted areas. The criteria for planting four or five types of flowers with one or two bushes would be low cost, high color impact/contrast and minimal care.

- Ms. Fournier noted the Sign as well as the Flagpole are now heavily planted with tulips and daffodils that will bloom in the Spring. Chair Keegan asked if the plantings will be too short lived. Ms. Fournier responded they are short lived, but the bulbs will remain there and re-emerge for 1-2 years. Mr. Abbe pointed out there are bulbs throughout the circle that we may want to take up and move into our Gardens. Ms. Drouin said she doesn't want to disturb the bulbs around the Flagpole because she wants to see the 'burst of glory' this Spring. At the same time, she doesn't want to look at the Sign in August with nothing growing there. She suggested after the bulbs bloom, they be moved. Ms. Drouin would like a tall planting as a backdrop for the Sign and Flagpole. The Committee agreed to leave the bulbs around the Sign for a Spring burst and then, later in the season, relocate the bulbs and plant a larger perennial that maintains color/interest through the rest of the growing season.
- Chair Keegan then asked for specific plants around the Sign. He explained this detail is needed to build the budget. He suggested proceeding section by section rather than move to the three Gardens before budgeting for the Sign. Ms. Drouin envisions all the Gardens will match, in shape, including around the Sign. Mr. Abbe thinks the Sign will be different. Mr. Abbe showed his 3 Garden diagram measuring about 30'x15' to 30'x20'. Ms. Fournier suggested planting daisy's or something relatively tall and colorful around the Sign. Ms. Drouin suggested Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan) because they are a go-to-New England plant and hold their own. She would put them on either side of the Sign and something low under the middle of the sign which is approximately 3.5' off the ground. Ms. Drouin thinks the Sign is last garden needing attention right now. Ms. Fournier suggested putting one Gloriosa Daisy, similar to a Rudbeckia and about 14" high on each side of the Sign.
- Mr. Abbe doesn't think the Committee's focus should be on designing what goes into each Garden. That is a matter of what is affordable, and the quantity needed. He would talk to Ms. Towle. Ms. Drouin wants to work with one designer. She doesn't believe you should ask for two women's designs. One person designs and one person purchases. Chair Keegan reminded the Committee that Ms. Matthews' presentation had been discussed and a consensus had emerged around Ms. Fournier's criteria. (See above under 'New Business' on page 2). These criteria are what the Committee will take forward for the discussion with Ms. Towle. Ms. Drouin expects Black Forest will help secure the needed plants. Ms. O'Brien clarified Ms. Towle's daughter now owns the business. Ms. Fournier noted Ms. Towle has over 40 years of garden design

experience. The Committee then made a list of plants based on Ms. Matthews' suggestions/recommendations. See below. The Committee needs Ms. Towle's help and expertise identifying best varieties and plotting their locations in the Gardens.

- The Committee will follow up with Chair Keegan calling Ms. Matthews to thank her for her assistance with offering choices and initial guidance. Ms. Drouin will also craft a 'Thank You' letter for her and an invitation to assist planting the Gardens.
- Chair Keegan reminded Committee Members that the Select Board asked the Committee to purchase locally whenever possible but not exclusively.
- The following table lists the Committee's selections and the number to purchase from Ms. Matthews PowerPoint.

Plant Material	Quantity
Common Winterberry	3-6
Karl Foerster Grass	9
Baptisia 'prarieblues': False Indigo	9 (3 in each garden)
Hosta ANY VARIETY/MANY VARIETIES	Total of 6
Daisy (Julie will decide)	?
Rudbeckia	?
Larkspur	9
Joe Pye Weed	6 (2 in each garden)
Porcupine Grass	3 (1 in each garden)
Lupine 'Russell Woodfield Hybrids'	6-9
Coneflower	6
Achillea 'Moonshine': Yarrow	6 or less
Sedum 'Autumn Joy' Stonecrop	3
Blanket Flower	6 (2 in each garden)

- Ms. Fournier will compile the finalist for Ms. Towle with the varieties and quantity for each. Based on Mr. Abbe's recommendations of 30'x15' to 30'x20' kidney shaped plantings, Ms. Fournier will make a rough calculation of the number plants needed. She will share the results with the Committee Members. Chair Keegan asked that her sketch be to scale of each of the 3 Gardens. Ms. O'Brien will convert her sketches to a pdf and distribute it to Members.

Next Meeting:

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

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner