

**Town of Boscawen
Circle Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 3rd, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan, Chairman, Julie Fournier-Vice Chair & Beverly Drouin, Ex Officio-Paul Dickey

Excused: Jeff Abbe

Others Present: Hannah Gardner- Recording Secretary & Lorrie Carey, guest

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 04.05.21 minutes as presented. Seconded by Ms. Julie Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.

Accountant Report: Motion made by Ms. Drouin to accept the financial report through 05.03.21 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Fournier. All in favor. None Opposed.

Old Business:

- **Activity Update:** Ms. Fournier contacted Black Forest Nursery. They have some of the plants in stock and ready to go. They are still waiting on a few plants. They will reach out to Ms. Fournier when the plants arrive. The plants will be removed from Black Forest Nursery property by May 15th. Chair Keegan asked Ms. Fournier if she asked about amendments. She has not but she will email Ms. Maze this week.
- Ms. Drouin wrote 'Thank You' notes. One was anonymous and the other was for the insurance agency. They were sent earlier this week. She also made a post on Facebook that received responses.
- Chair Keegan stated the irrigation line is in. Currently lacking is the connection between the Water Precinct and the irrigation line itself. The enclosure will be placed over the meter and the back flow preventer following their installation. Dean Hollins and crew assisted Bill Murphy in installing the base. Bill donated the material and labor to fabricate the base. Once the tests and acceptance of the meter and preventer are completed the irrigation line will be tested by Mr. Thomson. There is still work that needs to be done in the Circle on the irrigation line.

Pending Tasks: Chair Keegan will contact Mr. Thomson to put in the timer and the valves that are required in the pull box in the Circle. Mr. Thomson recommended putting a spigot in the Circle, located near the base of the flag. It will be used as a fall back if the drip irrigation isn't working to meet other water related needs. It will be controlled at the pull box in the Circle.

- Ms. Fournier will contact Black Forest Nursery to increase the number of bags of amendments and make sure all the plant material is available. She will confirm the dates to pick-up the plants and amendments, probably Friday May 14th.
- The Committee will do a walk through on Sunday May 8th at Ms. Drouin's house to plan should temporary space be needed to organize and/or store materials.
- The four Committee members will start raking off the mulch in the gardens on Sunday, May 8th. Chair Keegan has three reflective vests. If they have more volunteers the following weekend, they will need more vests. Chair Keegan can contact Dean Hollins because he mentioned a place in Concord that sells them. Ms. Carey thinks the Town still has some from when people were picking up trash on King St. a year ago. Chair Keegan will check in Alan Hardy.
- Ms. Carey will contact the high school and ask for volunteers from 8 am to 3pm on May 15th and 16th.
- Chair Keegan will write a procedural guideline, so people know that there are safety regulations to follow. He will confirm it with Police Chief Wyman.
- Chair Keegan will purchase snacks and water for all the volunteers.
- Ms. Drouin will write to the Concord Monitor and Concord Patch to let them know the Committee's plans. Hopefully, they will want to get involved. She will also write an article for the News Vines. Ms. Drouin will look on Facebook to see who expressed interest and she will reach out to them. She will write 'Thank You' notes to Dean Hollins, Bill Murphy and Doug Thomson.

New Business:

- Ms. Drouin asked how long the irrigation would be on each day. Chair Keegan said it is something the Committee deferred until they found out what the planting scheme was going to be. They need to figure out what time of day and for how long the irrigation will run. They also need to answer questions about the needs of the plants. Chair Keegan stated Mr. Thomson suggested watering in the morning.
- Chair Keegan thinks it may be possible to plant this weekend. Police Chief Wyman recommended working on the weekends. Ms. Drouin can help this weekend, but she won't be available the weekend after. Ms. Fournier works from 10:45 am until 4:00 pm on Saturdays. She could help out in the early morning around 7:30 am or after 4:00 pm. She can accommodate Sunday's better. Chair Keegan reported Mr. Abbe will return May 6th.
- Chair Keegan asked Ms. Carey about the status of the high school students volunteering in the Circle. Ms. Carey said they are just getting back to school. They wouldn't be able to do anything this quickly because they need time to organize. It would have to be

further out. She will let the Committee know. There may be 3 volunteers on Saturday and 4 on Sunday.

- Chair Keegan suggested asking Black Forest Nursery what plants they do have and how we can organize ourselves to best use them. Ms. Drouin suggested staging them at her house, if necessary, otherwise they stay in the trucks. Discussion focused on using Chair Keegan's and Mr. Abbe's pick-up trucks to park on the Circle at 12 o'clock (East approach) and 6 o'clock (Boscawen approach) which is what the NHDOT does. Chair Keegan will inform Police Chief Wyman of our plans. Chair Keegan stated there will only be 4 Committee members on May 8th & 9th. Ms. Drouin asked if they are limited to 4 people in the Circle. Chair Keegan said 8 is the number he gave Chief Wyman. Ms. Drouin suggested waiting until the following weekend so there are more volunteers. Chair Keegan is hesitant to push back the dates. Ms. Fournier is fine with pushing it out a week but sticking to the same plan.
- Ms. Drouin reiterated that community involvement is important. Police Chief Wyman would like us to limit the number of people in the Circle 8 at a time and move people off/on in groups whenever possible. Ms. Carey will ask the high school students if they could help the weekend of May 15 & 16. She said Monica Matthews would be interested in working as well. Ms. Carey suggested asking Collin Baldwin to help. He has done great work in Penacook.
- By moving the dates to the following weekend, this will allow Ms. Fournier to have enough time to collect all of the plants and the 25 bags of Jolly Rancher amendments which is a mix of manure, fertilizer and compost. It may be necessary to increase the bags of amendment depending on soil conditions. Black Forest Nursery set a deadline of May 15th. Ms. Drouin suggested picking up materials on Saturday morning, May 15th.
- Ms. Carey suggested putting the amendments on May 7th or May 8th. Chair Keegan suggested cleaning out the mulch and start digging the holes for the plants on the May 8th. Ms. Fournier created a very detailed map which will help with the organization. Then they would start planting the following weekend, May 15th and 16th. The volunteer hours would be from 8 am to 3 pm.

Chair Keegan motioned to accept the plans to start the gardening process on May 8th with the 4 Committee Members and to start planting materials on May 15th and 16th with a maximum of 8 people in the garden at a time. Seconded by Ms. Drouin. All in favor. None opposed.

- Ms. Carey said she wouldn't worry about the number of volunteers. They should still advertise to the community. She isn't certain a lot of high school students will be able to attend. Also, there will be groups of people who will spend two to three hours volunteering. Then, another group can move in to work.
- Ms. Drouin asked Chair Keegan to add the irrigation related information to the News Vine article, which he agreed to do before sending the draft to Mr. Hardy.
- Ms. Drouin asked about the next rotary being planned for the junction of Routes 3 & 4. She questioned how to avoid the issues presented at Exit 17, such as lack of water in the planting area. Ms. Carey asked that question at a meeting with Craig Tufts at the Central

Regional Planning. He said a public hearing with NHDOT will be held and that is where this and other questions should be raised. In 2022 the engineering money becomes available to begin this process. In the initial plans for the new rotary, among other things, they have cross walks included. Ms. Carey thinks the town should get in early on to address these issues.

- **Next Meeting:**
- Monday, June 7th @ 7 PM.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner