

**Town of Boscawen  
Circle Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan, Chairman, Jeff Abbe, Beverly Drouin,  
Excused: Julie Fournier, Paul Dickey - Ex-Officio  
Others Present: Kearsten O'Brien-Planning & Community Development

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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 to accept the amended 10.21.20 draft minutes by Mr. Abbe and second by Ms. Drouin. Corrections: Line 30 Unutil spelling corrected and Lines 30, 36 and 39 Keegan spelling corrected. All in favor.

**Accountant Report:** Reviewed Balance as of 11.17.20 is \$3,134.50

**Old Business:**

- **Activity Update:** Ms. Drouin reported that on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, she, along with Jeff and Judith Abbe, Julie Fournier planted over 700 red, yellow and white bulbs in clusters at random throughout the circle, but at least 7 feet from the perimeter. Also, planted a circle of flowers around the flag pole. She took pictures of the circle which were posted to the community Facebook page. She consistently includes a pitch for funding support, including how to make a donation. To date there had been 250+ positive comments on this Facebook page. One post included a note to not obstruct vision with spring plantings. She contacted the person to assure him this will be done.

Mr. Abbe reported he and Julie planted the bulbs around the sign, which Public Works had installed on November 13<sup>th</sup>. He noted that Dean and his crew had done a 'great job' keeping the mulch clean. He noted that Colby Lumber had donated the mulch per and email he received today, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Keegan reviewed the ‘thank you’ letters he had done: Public Works, GMI, and Stan Balch at Unitil. Related to Phase II, he has contacted Doug Thomson for pricing of the irrigation system. He estimates \$2,300. EJP (Prescott) price for the delivery line and related parts is in flux. Mr. Whiteman, EJP’s representative, did not have an updated price but Chair Keegan is using \$4,400 for planning purposes. This is higher than the 2020 price. Mr. Whiteman reported that any quote would only have a 30 day life from the date posted. Pending, is contact with the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct (PBWP) to confirm the \$1,300 cost for the hook-up and related materials. Plantings and maintenance are the other major out-of-pocket cost. Chair Keegan estimates \$2,700. The total cash needs are \$10,700 less cash on hand, \$3,000. Thus, \$7,600 will need to be raised for Phase II. At this point, based on the consensus of the members Chair Keegan will present the \$7,600 figure to the Select Board on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There are no labor or machinery costs included, except, perhaps \$300 for a trencher. Doug Thomson will provide labor for line and irrigation system installation.

- **Pending Tasks:** Ms. Drouin has thank you letters pending to Suzanne Maze and Adele Sanborn. She also plans to contact Cindy Merino in Salisbury, who had offered bulbs to thank her and share with her plans for Phase II in the spring. Ms. Drouin will reach out to attendees at the Twiggs Event to request photos for use on Facebook as part of the committee’s campaign to keep the Roundabout Project visible to the public for Phase II fundraising.

Chair Keegan will do ‘thank you’ letters to the Police Department and Ted Mellow at the Veterans Cemetery

**Fundraising:** Chair Keegan explained he had contacted Lyman Cousins concerning fundraising with local businesses and individuals on the Old Home Day (OHD) funding list. He has good rapport with the Select Board members and explained to them the one time Circle Committee funding request do not put OHD fundraising at risk. He may also assist with contacting potential funders.

Public media is another potential facet for fundraising. The *Concord Monitor*, local news vines and local papers can reach the public with our message. Ms. Drouin expressed an interest in this work.

Members’ brain stormed about other potential sources. Among those mentioned were: Penacook Legion, Chair Kegan will make this contact another was Country government. Members are skeptical but agreed to seek guidance from the Select Board. Mr. Abbe mentioned Avaloch Farm Music Institute. He knows Mason Donovan, an administrator at the school and will contact Mr. Donavon. Discussion moved to possibilities with Penacook merchants such as the pharmacy and hardware store. Chair Keegan will talk with them. Dr. Gabrielle is another possibility .Mr. Abbe knows him and will contact him. Discussion then focused on fundraising in town. The hypothetical was raised concerning an individual opening a ‘go fund me’ account for this project. Chair Keegan indicated that it would be that

individual's option and responsibility. The Select Board has been clear that committee members could not have any relationship either direct or indirect with such an endeavor.

**Plantings:** Chair Keegan started by identifying two significant resources at hand. Lorrie Carey's daughter, Monica Matthews and Nancy Towle at Black Forest. With Ms. ?a Go to Meeting session could be set up to look at the budget and broad plans for the plantings, including the line-of-sight, density, irrigation lay-out, ease of care, etc. There was agreement to do this as part of a regular meeting. Ms. Drouin suggested, and all agreed, that we would then have a separate meeting with Nancy Towle. She is a potential supplier and could address issues around specific cultivars and related details. Mr. Abbe has been in contact with her and noted she would like to be involved. Ms. Drouin sees her regularly and will engage her around our plans and how best to proceed. Discussion moved to decision making as we face recommendations and options from various people. Chair Keegan noted that this Committee has the duty and responsibility for the decisions that will be reviewed by NHDOT. Our decisions will be based on common sense about what will grow and thrive in this environment and the guidance received to meet NHDOT parameters for line-of-site, density, historically successful plantings, etc. Mr. Abbe is has worked with current NHDOT landscapers who might assist us as we work with the resource people already identified. Chair Keegan identified another potential plantings source, the State Forest Nursey. He will call and inquire if their spring catalogue will have any native plants appropriate for the circle. Two final decisions related to plantings are: no multiflora rose or other plants difficult to work around and Ms. Drouin will research the issue of salt tolerant plants, including evergreens that could be planted within seven feet of the truck apron. She will research prior minutes for background and provide clarification at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

- Ms. Drouin will make a list of donors/supporters who need to be thanked which she will circulate for additions and revisions.

**Adjournment:**

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

**Next Meeting:**

- Monday, December 14, 2020 @7:00PM