

**Town of Boscawen
Old Home Day
Boscawen Municipal Complex
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18th, 2023, at 6:00 PM**

Present: Polly Dawson - Chair, Gary Tillman, Beverly Lacey, & Kim Kenney

Guests: Ralph Odell

Chair Polly Dawson opened the public meeting at 6:00pm.

Roll call completed by Chair Dawson.

Minutes: Mr. Gary Tillman requested changes to lines 59, 63 and 64, change ‘chess’ to ‘chest’.

Chair Dawson requested one change on line 71, correct ‘Electrek Sola’ to Elektrisola’.

Chair Dawson motioned to approve the 08.21.23 Old Home Day draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report: Mr. Tillman reached out to Finance Director Kate Merrill about the financial reports, asking for the reports to reflect up to the current month. Chair Dawson spoke with FD Merrill, and her explanation was that it would not reflect the total of last year. For example, if she closed the date on August 31st, 2023, it would only go back to August 31st, 2022. Mr. Tillman questioned why they needed last year’s data to be reflected. Chair Dawson said it may be necessary to assess their budget goals. Ms. Kenney noted the Old Home Day Committee has not received a bill from Den Brae for the Golf Tournament. She provided a rough estimate based on the numbers provided by Den Brae and the number of players. The estimate included \$152 for scoring, \$4,408 for food services and \$200 for gift cards to the Pro Shop, which was awarded to the winners for ‘closest to the pin’ and ‘longest drive’. The \$820 expense for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th prizes were already paid and reflected in the budget. In total, the OHD Committee made \$8,190 from the golf tournament, minus the total expenses of \$4,800.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report as presented through 09.18.23. Seconded by Chair Dawson. All in favor. None opposed.

2024 Budget: The committee reviewed the 2024 Old Home Day budget. Chair Dawson said FD Merrill asked about eliminating the craft fair budget line of \$2,300. Chair Dawson had suggested to remove it and, in the future, if someone wanted to run it, they could add the budget line. Discussion ensued. Chair Dawson clarified that the budget was preliminary, and the committee was responsible for proposing figures. Ms. Kenney noted the cost of golf teams will be \$7,200. Mr. Tillman pointed out that the sponsorships were low this year. Chair Dawson asked Ms. Kenney how she requests sponsorships. Ms. Kenney said she sends out a letter to past sponsors and continues to follow up. She noted this year, some sponsors didn’t donate, and Elektrisola donated \$500 instead of \$1,000 because they made a \$750 donation to the fill-a-cruiser. Chair

Dawson suggested that for next year, they may need someone to assist in finding sponsors. Chair Dawson noted the golf tournament raffle made a lot more than expected due to the golf club raffle. Chair Dawson questioned the OHD donation line #2175. She noted that someone had donated \$21,000 and suggested that the committee find out who it was so they could send a 'thank you' letter. Ms. Kenney mentioned that the total was a combination of multiple donations. Discussion ensued. Chair Dawson will reach out to Finance Director Merrill for clarification on the OHD donation line and to identify the donors. Chair Dawson asked for clarification on the sponsorship budget line #2155. Mr. Tillman noted that if the committee doesn't receive funding for fireworks from the city, the \$3,000 in their budget won't cover the costs for 2024. Chair Dawson suggested keeping the budget line for fireworks in the 2024 budget in case people vote for them at Town Meeting. Mr. Tillman stated he was fine with keeping the fireworks budget line in the 2024 budget. All concurred.

Chair Dawson presented a request on behalf of Town Administrator Katie Phelps, who was unable to be present at the meeting. TA Phelps has been working on a project that has been outstanding since 2010, when the Depot Street bridge was removed. The Depot Street bridge connected Boscawen to Canterbury. The town is considering installing a covered pavilion at the park, measuring 20x30 feet with an educational component incorporated showing the history of the former bridge. The educational component was the last remaining task to finish the project. Placement will be where the OHD committee formally set up a white tent. The proposed location has been staked out at the park and is adjacent to the playground equipment, and close to electrical access. Chair Dawson stated TA Phelps requested the OHD committee to consider donating to the project as it would be a permanent covered seating area in the park that would be available for use by the committee for future OHD events and fundraisers. The plan was to put picnic tables under the pavilion. The town has funds set aside however additional funds will be necessary to supplement the project costs. Chair Dawson felt that donations made to the OHD Committee should be kept for the committee's use only. She noted that an individual suggested donating the \$3,000 funds allotted for fireworks. Ms. Kenney was concerned about giving away more money than they take in. She puts a lot of time into fundraising and suggested that their focus should be on providing something for the senior population again, such as BINGO. Ms. Kenney expressed that the money donated should be used for people in the community. Mr. Tillman suggested using the fireworks funds for a senior event next year. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tillman was not in favor of the location of the pavilion. He noted it will take away a big section of the playground.

Chair Dawson motioned to refuse the request for the Old Home Day Committee to make a donation to the pavilion project. Seconded by Gary Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Home Day Review: During the budget discussion, Mr. Tillman suggested not charging food truck vendors for a space at Old Home Day. Ms. Kenney noted the committee did not collect any money from food trucks this year. Mr. Tillman suggested to continue not charging moving forward.

The committee discussed feedback from OHD week. Ms. Kenney noted the parade went very well. Mr. Tillman noted at OHD the kids loved the waterslides. Ms. Kenney plans to order them

earlier next year. Mr. Tillman asked why there wasn't a dunk tank. Ms. Kenney cancelled the dunk tank due to the weather predictions.

Flashy Flock Contest: Chair Dawson read Mr. John Keegan's feedback about the Flashy Flock Chicken contest that Twiggs Art Gallery hosted. He suggested having two separate categories, each with three prizes. Mr. Keegan recommended to allow the use of materials, in addition to, paint and appendages. Chair Dawson said it was not stated in the instructions. Mr. Keegan suggested including 'may add additional characters such as little chickens', to what is allowed. Furthermore, he recommended to display their entry where it will be visible from the street and reiterate it in the instructions. Chair Dawson noted that Mr. Ralph Odell, one of the judges from the Agricultural Committee, suggested recognizing all participants with a certificate with a picture of the entry. Chair Dawson stated that Ms. Sanborn's response was that it would be a lot of work for Twiggs Art Gallery to collect the photos. Chair Dawson mentioned that the OHD committee used to run the contest when they did the cow cutouts, but Ms. Sanborn took over because the committee didn't have enough people. Mr. Tillman said contestants can take their own photos and send them in. Discussion ensued. Chair Dawson presented a breakdown of expenses from Twiggs Art Gallery and noted that they did not receive any money from the contest. She said the contest made \$1,361.86 but Twiggs spent it all on expenses. Chair Dawson read through the expenses and mentioned there was a \$300 OHD donation. She will reach out to Ms. Sanborn to clarify whether they will get the donation. Mr. Ralph Odell stated that while they were judging, they took pictures of the cutouts so they could evaluate all of them at the end. He suggested that the pictures could be downloaded, and in the future, judges could take the pictures to use for the certificates. Chair Dawson noted the judges had a hard time finding some of the cutouts that weren't displayed in a visible location. Ms. Kenney suggested displaying all the cutouts at the Municipal Office so people can see them in one spot. Discussion ensued. Mr. Odell stated it was hard to judge the cutouts because there were various different scopes. For example, there were artists that participated as well as children and families. Ms. Kenney asked Mr. Odell if he thought people would still participate if they didn't have prizes for the cutouts. She suggested it should be a community-spirited activity rather than a prized-oriented contest. Chair Dawson noted one of the suggestions was to have two separate categories, one focused on the contestants that have a high level of artistic skill and the other focused on less artistic participants that have knowledge of Boscawen history or are participating as a family.

Chair Dawson noted that Ms. Beverly Lacoy sold raffle tickets at the Avaloch Musical at Twiggs. Ms. Lacoy stated they made \$100 off the raffles that night.

Yard Sale Prep: The committee discussed when to hold the fall, Yard Sale. Mr. Tillman stated they usually hold it on the first Saturday in October. Chair Dawson noted the Economic Development Committee will be presenting their 1st annual Pumpkin Ride and Walk at Jamie Welch Park. There will be a costume bike ride, bike repair workshop, pumpkin painting, and scarecrow craft workshop. Ms. Kenney asked how much the committee made from the fall Yard Sale last year. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tillman said last year they charged \$5 to be on the map and \$10 for a table. Ms. Kenney suggested not doing the fall Yard Sale this year. She noted they have made more money this year. She said the committee has stayed under budget and made more in raffles.

Chair Dawson motioned to approve not holding the fall OHD Yard Sale this year. Seconded by Ms. Lacey. All in favor. None opposed.

Chair Dawson would like to go to the Select Board and find out what their plan is for storage facilities for OHD in the future. She noted they are currently selling and giving away the OHD storage areas. Ms. Kenney noted TA Phelps said they could use the basement at the Municipal Office for storage. Chair Dawson said she would have to look at the space to make sure everything would fit. Currently OHD uses Town Hall and the old Fire Station for storage. Chair Dawson said they have games, popcorn machines, raffles, etc. Mr. Tillman suggested selling some of the storage items at their Yard Sales. Chair Dawson noted previous committee's used to use the machines for the events. She asked Susan Younis if she wanted any of the items back that she donated but Susan declined. Discussion ensued. The committee discussed taking a tour of the storage units they have so all members know where and what is in them. Chair Dawson will request to be on the next Select Board meeting to discuss their plans.

Regular Business: Ms. Kenney referred back to the 2024 budget discussion. She pulled up the budget updates from FD Merrill. From the last one she had, which was not the latest update, golf sponsorships were at \$2,060 and donations were \$900, a total of \$2,960. She stated the current budget reflected \$2,690 and she did not understand why it changed. Ms. Kenney mentioned Elektrisola was one of the last sponsorships to donate and the current budget does not reflect the \$500 donation. She calculated a total of \$3,460 for sponsorships and donations. Chair Dawson noted the budget reflected \$6,100 for golf teams, \$380 for the golf raffle, and \$780 for other income. She was concerned \$20 disappeared because the total should reflect \$7,240. She stated in the past, FD Merrill was able to print every input they did that year. She suggested they could do it again to see where the money is going and coming from. Ms. Kenney noted the spreadsheet FD Merrill sends her, lists the donors and the amounts. Mr. Tillman suggested reaching out to FD Merrill to request a list of the two columns so they can determine where the funds are and where they were allocated. All concurred. Chair Dawson will reach out to FD Merrill.

Chair Dawson noted that she received a phone call from a company that was upset they paid for a spot in the parade and weren't on the list. Chair Dawson clarified that when Ms. Kenney sent out the request for sponsorship, the company thought they had paid to be in the parade. She spoke to the individual and explained the situation. She welcomed them to still participate in the parade and noted it did not cost money. Chair Dawson will reach out to FD Merrill to determine if the company completed the sponsorship donation.

At the last meeting, Ex-Officio Burdick asked the committee their opinion on being a non-profit committee versus being part of a town organization. Mr. Tillman noted TA Phelps sent out the information regarding why the OHD committee was part of the town. He suggested the committee should stay part of the town organization based on the information provided.

New Business: The committee discussed their meeting schedule. Mr. Tillman suggested at a minimum, to meet in December and January to plan the spring Yard Sale ahead of time. Ms. Kenney suggested meeting in October and noted December would be the month to take off. She stated she would like to start discussing ideas for the senior population. Mr. Tillman mentioned that Ms. Lacey previously stated there was a facility in Penacook that they could use for BINGO.

Ms. Kenney said before the October meeting she will talk with Alan to discuss food service options. Chair Dawson was concerned with having enough people. Ms. Kenney said if they can secure a food service, they would only need the caller and the recorder. Chair Dawson asked about someone selling tickets. Ms. Kenney suggested not selling tickets if they don't have enough people to do it. She suggested holding a senior event in January, February, March, and April. Mr. Tillman asked what would be given out for prizes. Chair Dawson noted the prizes are donations from people, there is no money involved. Ms. Kenney will reach out to Alan to discuss the food options and prices. At the next meeting, the committee will start planning for the spring Yard Sale and secure a date.

Next meeting:

Monday, October 23rd, 2023 @ 6:00PM.

Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn at 7:03pm. Seconded by Ms. Kenney. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner