

**Town of Boscawen
AGCOM Circle Committee
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

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

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

John Keegan asked the members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Keegan asked what day, time and frequency is best for meetings. All the members agreed that Fridays at 6pm worked well and would determine frequency as we go.

The Committee discussed issues that need to be addressed such as safety, water, landscape, cleanup, volunteers, maintenance and water/electrical access.

Chair Keegan had spoken with Doug Thompson from Thompson Lawn Care who would like to help with this project. He does design, landscaping, has his pesticide license and has done two round-a-bouts (RAB).

Mr. Keegan has spoken with the design person at DOT, Barbara Rollins. He will ask for the planting plans at the RAB's for Exits 16, 17 and Warner.

SAFETY- Mr. Keegan has spoken with Lieutenant Killary at the Boscawen Police Department who provided the following safety guidelines.

- Park at the Park & Ride
- Wear safety vests at all times
- No more than 3-5 volunteers at once in the RAB
- Use 'men working signs' at all RAB access points when working at the site
- Don't work at the site Monday-Friday- 7am-8:30am, 12-1pm or 4-6pm Weekends-avoid afternoon
- Minimize walking on/off the planting area

Mr. Abbe said there is parking behind the guardrail. Mrs. Drouin questioned if he suggested not having police presence. Mr. Keegan responded he didn't say. We can ask in later discussions. Mrs. Drouin noted police may need to be there when trucks are unloading material. Ms. Fournier questioned the traffic count. Mr. Keegan said 10,000-15,000 vehicles per day is the number he recalls. Ms. Fournier questioned if Dig Safe needs to be involved. Mr. Abbe said just call and they will come.

VOLUNTEERS- Mr. Keegan said we need to be strict with volunteer enrollment and time on site due to the overriding safety concerns. Volunteers need to be included in the Town's insurance policy. Ms. Bailey will spearhead the volunteer initiatives and manage the Boscawen Facebook page interaction for the committee when the time comes.

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37 WATER/ELECTRIC ACCESS- There is a pull box in the planting area and conduit underneath
38 the roadway but it is uncertain where it emerges outside the circle. Mr. Keegan said they would
39 have to choose either water or electric. All agreed water is most important. Ms. Fournier
40 suggested we might approach the Town for both utilities. Mrs. Drouin said the Penacook rotary
41 looks stunning with the lights. Ms. Fournier questioned fundraising for the project. Mrs. Drouin
42 questioned if it had to go through the Town Budget. Mr. Keegan will ask. Mr. Thompson
43 suggested using an irrigation system with automatic timer and a water tank near Harris Hill road.
44 Ms. Bailey said some plants hold more water than others and should be considered for plant
45 selection.

46 Doug Thompson can help with weeding the area using herbicides and his equipment. Mrs.
47 Drouin questioned putting chemicals on the planting area. Ms. Fournier said Round-Up is water
48 soluble and dissipates after a certain point.

49 PLANTINGS- Barbara Rollins, NHDOT, has sent suggestions of different plantings. Saying Mr.
50 Keegan basically saying perennials is the way to go. Mr. Abbe suggested a focal point. Mr.
51 Keegan asked if Mrs. Drouin would take responsibility for suggesting plantings. She accepted
52 with assistance from Ms. Fournier and Ms. Bailey. Ms. Bailey suggested including pollinating
53 flowers. Mrs. Drouin questioned if plantings would block motorists view. Mr. Keegan suggested
54 dwarf varieties. Committee members mentioned Nancy Towle, who does the plantings by the
55 lights, for advice on this project. Mr. Keegan said the new RAB in East Concord has low, nice
56 looking evergreens. Related to this, Cooperative Extension Service (CES) has a new probe
57 device that measures, among other soil characteristics, salt levels. CES is willing to assist with
58 the measurement. Mrs. Drouin would like to be present when the probe is used.

59 FINANCIAL- Mr. Keegan reported there is \$1,750 available; \$750 from Rodger Woodbury
60 donations, \$500 from the Town beautification budget and \$500 from the Agriculture
61 Commission. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) would like to expend funds in Boscawen to the
62 extent possible. Committee members mentioned Kyle Poirier and Matt McKerley (MDM) as
63 potential landscapers and Black Forest Nursery for plants and related materials. General types of
64 potential expenses identified are: plant material, solar lighting, mulch, conduit, irrigation lines
65 and equipment, water line and or tank and pump. Committee Members hope to secure donations
66 for any expenses beyond the \$1,750.

67 UPKEEP- Mr. Abbe said this will be the hardest part of this project. Mrs. Drouin wants the
68 plantings to be low maintenance, with clean out in the spring and fall and minimal weeding
69 during the summer. Mr. Abbe agreed to spearhead the upkeep.

70 START DATE- Members hope to begin with cleanup in early May and plantings at the end of
71 the month.

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72 The next meeting will be January 31st at 6:00pm

73 **Adjournment: 7:10pm**

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75 *Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco*

DRAFT