

**Town of Boscawen
Beautification Committee
116 North Main St
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 25th, 2022, at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan--Chair, Beverly Drouin—Vice Chair, Jeff Abbe, Nancy Towle

Staff Present: Kara Gallagher—Planning and Community Development Clerk

Absent: Paul Dickey-Ex Officio

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call: Completed and no guests.

Minutes:

Mr. Abbe motioned to approve the Beautification Minutes of 05.23.22 as presented. Seconded by Ms. Towle. All in favor. None Opposed.

Financial Report: Chair Keegan reported the Committee received more income from donations. The total balance available is \$450, including their balance from the Selectmen. The Roundabout account has a current balance of \$1,982.13.

Vice Chair Drouin motioned to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business: Chair Keegan stated Ms. Beth Desmarais has resigned as a member of the Beautification Committee. He will send her a 'Thank You' letter.

Circle: Mr. Abbe is currently working on the Circle maintenance alone. He is removing weeds from around the perimeter and in the walkway to the flagpole which are the areas with the most weeds. Mr. Abbe has been calibrating the water at 30% for 45 minutes, every other day. The Lupine flowers didn't survive this year, possibly from overwatering. However, the Lupine's have had a lot of sprouts which he was hoping to replant in the same spots.

Fire Station: Ms. Towle said the flowers at the Fire Station look great. Fire Chief Tim Kenney has been watering the flowers. Ms. Towle deadheads and fertilizes them as needed. She bought organic insect spray to help protect the Impatiens.

Town Offices: Ms. Towle is now in charge of the two planters at the Police Station. She fertilized, bark mulched, weeded, and clipped them. She said the Orange Day Lilies in the Town Office Garden are barely blooming. When they start to bloom, she will groom them and put in something with more color. She suggested a Trellis with Mandevilla's or Rose of Sharon. Ms. Towle hasn't been able to weed the area under the Town Office sign, but she has been watering the soil to keep the sparse flowers alive.

Library Sign: Chair Keegan said the Library sign was put in and has Sunflowers at the base. Ms. Towle has been watering them. She bought Copper Fungicide Spray for the Lilacs because they are notorious for powdery mildew. She saw spots of mildew growing on the leaves this morning.

Public Hearing of the Penacook Academy Review Committee (PARC): Vice Chair Drouin and Ms. Towle attended to explain the Committee's vision for the gazebo. Ms. Towle received a quote to bleach

and stain the structure from Tuxedo Painting for \$1,000. They also talked about planting perennials around the base of the gazebo, which would be a Committee project. In addition, Vice Chair Drouin reported they discussed the design and placement of benches on the grounds. They walked the perimeter to visualize where the benches would be placed. Vice Chair Drouin said they talked about removing the fencing along the sidewalk from Jackson Street, past the monument, to the next tree. All were in favor of taking the fence down to have more space for benches. Selectman Paul Dickey had concerns with children having access to the road during concerts or at T-ball games. Vice Chair Drouin said they discussed removing half of the fence and turning the other half towards the office building to create a closed area for the kids. Vice Chair Drouin and Ms. Towle left the hearing before the Committee reconvened privately to finalize their decisions on the gazebo, benches and other items. Vice Chair Drouin noted everyone in attendance favored the gazebo and bench proposals. Chair Keegan will ask Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt for the minutes as soon as they are available. Vice Chair Drouin said Facilities Director (FD), Gary Moore, talked about an alternative for lighting the areas surrounding the building that are not currently illuminated. The idea was to have Victorian lighting to match the building, but, currently, there is no funding. One Victorian style lamp post costs \$7,000. FD Moore suggested a different lamp post with bollard lighting for \$300 each. Vice Chair Drouin said no one loved the idea but they understood and liked the lower investment option.

Gazebo Project: Ms. Towle explained anonymous donors have committed to pay all expenses for bleach washing and staining the Gazebo to match the porch stairs. The donors will pay the vendor, Tuxedo Painting, directly. The quote was \$1,000. Jason from Tuxedo Painting toured the Gazebo and noticed a lot of mold. He will spray a 50% bleach solution on the surfaces to be stained and let it set for a day or two. They can't stain until the mold is gone. Jason said the stairs weren't stained. Ms. Towle talked to Mr. Alan Hardy, who explained that the stairs weren't painted. They are pure mahogany wood covered with a clear coat. Ms. Towle favors doing a solid stain because the gazebo is not a mahogany structure. Also, the gazebo, with a solid stain will last longer and the color is more durable. Planning and Community Development Clerk Gallagher said a semi-solid stain would show more of the wood grain whereas a solid stain would look similar to a paint. Committee Members will need to take down fixtures and lights in the Gazebo before painting. Ms. Towle said there is currently no timeline because she was waiting on the okay to act and unclear about Tuxedo Painting's availability. Chair Keegan asked if the peak of the roof was included in the price. Ms. Towle said it is unclear as she is not certain what that entails. Discussion ensued. It was decided to visit the gazebo as a group after the meeting and identify the area in question for Ms. Towle who will follow up with Tuxedo Painting. Vice Chair Drouin asked for clarification on moving forward with the Gazebo. Chair Keegan said they need to wait for the PARC draft minutes to be posted to confirm their final decision.

Fundraising: Chair Keegan a few small donations have been received from the jars in the Town Clerk's office and an anonymous donation. He asked Committee members for ideas on more fundraising options. They previously discussed putting a poster at Franklin Savings Bank and advertising on the Town Website as well as social media. Vice Chair Drouin said the poster she made was approved at the Town level but was only posted on Facebook. She suggested printing out 10 posters to display at businesses around town. All concurred. Vice Chair Drouin suggested replacing pictures in the poster with updated photos of the gardens and roundabout. Vice Chair Drouin will take pictures of the garden at the Town Office entrance, the Fire Station, and Watering Trough. She also asked Committee Members with photos to forward them to her. PCD Clerk Gallagher will print them out next week. Vice Chair Drouin said both the updated pictures and poster will be posted on Facebook and other outlets. In addition, she will draft an article for next month's Newsvine seeking donations. The article will explain what the Beautification Committee would like to accomplish with their donations.

New Business: Ms. Towle will be on vacation starting August 13th until the 23rd. A Committee Member will need to water the flowers at the Town Office. Mr. Abbe asked Ms. Towle how she waters the Police Station planters. Ms. Towle uses a 1-gallon container. She suggested a light water every day for the Dahlia's and Zinnia's, because they can root rot easily. Fire Chief Kenney will water the flowers at the Fire Station.

Chair Keegan said Town Administrator Katie Phelps talked about extending the garden along the Town Office entrance to the lamp post with annuals. Committee members noted it would be a lot of work to maintain considering snow removal issues as well. Discussion ensued. The Committee agreed to tour the area after adjournment. The Committee consensus was to not move forward with expansion plans at this time.

Ms. Towle expressed concerned with a Decorative Pear Tree along Jackson Street outside the Town Office Building. She noticed the brown, branching and the need to be pruned. Chair Keegan will contact Public Works Director Dean Hollis about pruning as well as an arborist he knows for advice.

Next Meeting:

TBD

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Chair Keegan. Seconded by Vice Chair Drouin. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner