

**Town of Boscawen
Beautification Committee
116 North Main St
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 15th, 2023, at 5:00 PM**

Members Present: Chair John Keegan, Vice Chair Beverly Drouin, Nancy Towle & Bill Bevans—Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Katie Phelps—Town Administrator

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 5:00 PM.

Roll Call: Completed and guests introduced.

Minutes: Chair Keegan requested one change, line 123, change ‘Ms. Drouin will reach out to Laura ___.’ to ‘Ms. Drouin will reach out to an individual...’

Ms. Beverly Drouin motioned to approve the Beautification Minutes of 04.10.23 as amended. Seconded by Chair Keegan. All in favor. None Opposed.

Financial Report:

Ms. Drouin motioned to approve the Treasurer Report through 05.15.23 as presented. Seconded by Ex-Officio Bill Bevans. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Annual Work Plan: The Committee previously discussed creating an Annual Work Plan to guide all current and future members. The plan will include projects they have done thus far, maintenance information, a list of contacts for emergencies, etc. Ms. Drouin is still working on the outline. The goal is to complete the Work Plan by August 2023.

Granite Cleaning Status: Chair Keegan spoke with the Wilmot Cemetery Trustees about the stain on the granite sign at the entrance to the Municipal Complex. They suggested using a Simple Green Granite Cleaner, purchasing a container for less than \$10. Chair Keegan said Public Works Director Dean Hollins is interested to see how it works. Chair Keegan proposed buying the Simple Green Cleaner. All concurred. TA Phelps noted, if needed, the town has an Amazon account that can be used to purchase the product.

Chair Keegan attended a demonstration in Wilmot last summer on how they clean gravestones. He suggested reaching out to the Boscawen Cemetery Trustees in the future to see if they’re interested in using the organic cleaner. He spoke with individuals in Wilmot about the possibility of doing a demonstration here in Boscawen for the DPW and Cemetery Trustees, if there is an

interest. For about 5 years Wilmot Trustees have also been restoring and resetting stones. No further discussion.

Roundabout Plans: Chair Keegan, Ms. Nancy Towle and Mr. Jeff Abbe assessed the Roundabout and found that half a dozen or so of the perennials didn't make it through the winter. Ms. Towle made recommendations for new plants and Mr. Abbe plans to pick them up at Black Forest Nursery. Chair Keegan noted Ms. Towle suggested an additional circular planting that would outline the perennials. In regard to the mulch, they will assess how much is needed because distribution varies across the roundabout. Chair Keegan and Mr. Abbe plan to check on the roundabout weekly to control weeds.

Follow-Up Reports: Ms. Drouin mentioned at the last meeting, Ms. Towle had an action item to set a date for the Beautification Committee to do the planting at the Municipal Complex. She noted there was previous discussion about Committee members doing the digging and getting volunteers to plant. Discussion ensued. Ms. Drouin referred to line 94 in the 04.10.23 Beautification draft minutes where it stated, 'Ms. Towle will put together a proposed schedule for planting'. Ms. Drouin recalled Ms. Towle stating she was going to plant the 2 planters at the Police Station and design where the flowers would be planted in the staircase garden at the building entrance. Ms. Drouin and Chair Keegan would do the digging and planting as well as the watering. The flagpole planting was not assigned. Ms. Drouin observed Black Forest Nursery funds the plantings which Ms. Towle works with them to design. Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Towle for further discussion.

Ms. Drouin suggested focusing on beautifying the Historical Society or the entrance at the Plains Cemetery. She noted it would be beneficial to focus on another area since Ms. Towle is working with the roundabout plantings. Chair Keegan stated the Committee needs to fine-tune the current planting schedule.

Ms. Drouin raised the possibility of a different operational model for the Committee, suggesting a 'town garden club' doing the gardening/beautification with the support and direction of the Beautification Committee instead. She anticipated it could draw in more gardeners who would not have to participate in the Committee deliberations, just gardening. This might evolve into a community garden club. Chair Keegan favors keeping the Beautification Committee in order to maintain the budget and keep a connection with the Town officials. He suggested the City of Franklin's Beautification Committee might be our model. They have a list of volunteers to contact when projects, such as plantings, are ready to be done. Then the volunteers gather to complete the task(s). Chair Keegan noted Ms. Towle planned to reach out to her Franklin contact for further details on their model. Ex-Officio Bevans mentioned Webster started a gardening club this year. He will send Chair Keegan contact information for Webster's club. Ms. Drouin noted the importance of having a model that supports their current generous donor, Black Forest Nursery. Mr. Bevans reviewed the Committee's project goals and provided feedback. Ms. Drouin explained the idea for the Cemetery entrances. She noted that a friend had suggested the Adopt-A-Spot at the Plains Cemetery. There the proposal is to put flowers in whiskey barrels at

the entrance and/or planters hanging on the railings. Mr. Bevans favors the Adopt-A-Spot idea and suggested adding other spots. Discussion ensued. TA Phelps suggested the Jamie Welch Park sign on King Street. She is unaware of the property ownership status. Chair Keegan will assess the location. Ms. Drouin suggested the town sign in front of the Church Park. Ex-Officio Bevans noted the former Boscawen Women's Club donated that sign to the church. Chair Keegan supported the idea. TA Phelps noted the sign is on Route 4. In summary, the Adopt-A-Spot discussion identified: Jamie Welch sign, Plains Cemetery, and the church sign. Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Elaine Clow about an Adopt-A-Spot at the Historical Society. TA Phelps noted that next year, the Community Action Program (CAP) will have a bus route that comes through town. Former Community Services Director Sarah Gerlack arranged a pickup spot at the intersection of River Road and King St. TA Phelps suggested the bus stop as a potential future Adopt-A-Spot.

New Business:

Ms. Drouin asked if the town is on track to complete the King St project in the summer of 2024. Discussion ensued. Chair Keegan spoke with the Planning Engineer, Matt Lampron who stated it was in the NHDOT 10-year plan. Ex-Officio Bevans noted it was originally planned for 2028. TA Phelps said there has only been discussion about the turning lane. Ex-Officio Bevans clarified the turning lane will go from Cumberland Farms to Queen St. Ms. Drouin asked if they revised the original map. Ex-Officio Bevans noted the turning lane was in the original plan. Ms. Drouin stated there were several turning points but not a turning lane. Discussion ensued. TA Phelps presented a sketch of the plans including a roundabout near the church. No further discussion.

Ms. Towle arrived at 5:30PM. Chair Keegan provided an overview of what had been discussed thus far. Ms. Towle was in favor of having an Adopt-A-Spot at the Historical Society and noted it should be the first priority. Ms. Towle suggested contacting Ms. Nancy Watson at Franklin Savings Bank to see if they would be interested in sponsoring an Adopt-A-Spot for the Historical Society. She mentioned a few years ago, one of her customers was interested in helping the Historical Society. The individual suggested taking down the chain link fence because it blocked the entrance. They also suggested putting in a bench. TA Phelps noted Chief Tim Kenney previously discussed installing a bench recognizing the contributions of Henrietta Kenny. Ms. Towle suggested asking Franklin Savings Bank to help with fence removal, the bench and flowers. Chair Keegan will contact Ms. Elaine Clow at the Historical Society for feedback prior to moving forward with this idea. After that he will reach out to Chief Kenney to see if he would be interested in helping with the bench. Then, he will contact Ms. Watson at Franklin Savings Bank to see what they would be willing to donate/sponsor.

At the last meeting there was discussion about mowing the grass at the Town Office. Chair Keegan spoke with PWD Hollins. As a result, PWD will bring their hand mower and weed whacker in the future to care for the lawn next to the building.

Chair Keegan asked Ms. Towle for the planting date at the town office staircase. Ms. Towle will keep the Committee posted because it depends on weather.

Pending Tasks:

- TA Phelps will contact Facilities Director Gary Moore to put the hose out at the Municipal Office.
- Ms. Towle will water and maintain the Adopt-A-Spot for the entryway at the Municipal Building. Furthermore, she will water and maintain the flagpole area, the 2 planters at the Police Station and the Library Granite Post plantings.
- Ms. Drouin will work on the Annual Work Plan.
- Ex-Officio Bevans will send Chair Keegan the Webster Gardening Club contact information.
- Chair Keegan will buy the Simple Green Cleaner to clean the Municipal Complex granite sign.
- Chair Keegan will assess the Jamie Welch Park sign and town sign in front of the church for potential Adopt-A-Spot locations.
- Chair Keegan will contact Elaine Clow concerning collaboration with the Historical Society on an Adopt-A-Spot.
- If the Historical Society spot is approved, Chair Keegan will reach out to Chief Kenney and Ms. Nancy Watson at Franklin Savings Bank.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 5:30PM in the Town Municipal Building Kitchen

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner