

**Town of Boscawen
Circle Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 9th, 2021, at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan, Chairman, Julie Fournier-Vice Chair, Jeff Abbe, Kellee Easler
& Ex Officio-Paul Dickey
Excused: Beverly Drouin

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: completed; no guests were introduced.

Draft Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Jeff Abbe to accept the 06.07.21 minutes as presented.
Seconded by Ms. Julie Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.

Accountant Report: Motion made by Ms. Fournier to accept the financial report through
08.09.21 as presented with notice to check on the Tom Berkeley bill. Seconded by Mr. Abbe. All
in favor. None Opposed.

- Mr. Jeff Abbe asked if they currently owe anything. Chair Keegan said he hasn't seen the fee for Tom Berkeley for hooking up the water. PCD Kellee Easler will ask Ms. Kate Merrill about that bill. Chair Keegan said they will have a statement from the Water Precinct at some point. Chair Keegan anticipates they won't owe anything to the Water Precinct because of the amount of water used.

Old Business:

- **Budget Update:** Chair Keegan reported that there is approximately a \$2,000 balance that is dedicated to the Circle. The money will remain in that account. They can draw on it as they need it for any expenses related to the Circle. It is open for donations but as of now they haven't had any. If any Committee members are asked about donating, they can use the formulation that was in the FAX sheets that was in the account. Mr. Abbe anticipated they may use some of the funds in the Spring for amendments and mulch.
- **Fall Maintenance:** Chair Keegan has put on his calendar every month, to get a 5-gallon pale to pull out weeds and patrol the Circle. Mr. Abbe has checked the Circle a few times and the weeds haven't been bad. Chair Keegan suggests that a committee member do a monthly check and let the other members know when it is complete. Chair Keegan asked what they should do, come wintertime. Ms. Fournier doesn't think they need to do a lot as far as cutback. For the perennial garden it takes about 3 years to establish. They are different from annual gardens where you buy them in 6-month periods, full bloomed and grown in greenhouse condition. Ms. Fournier suggested doing cutbacks in the Spring clean-up. In addition, Ms. Fournier doesn't think the trees need to be wrapped in the winter. It is a matter of keeping the weeds in check and possibly augmenting mums into the garden. The mums would last from August to around October. Ms. Fournier suggested putting 2 on each side of the Welcome to Boscawen sign. In addition, possibly

3 mums in each of the major points of the garden. Total there would be 16 mums with a variety of colors. They estimate about \$5 a mum. Ms. Fournier suggested putting corn stocks up on the flagpole. Mr. Abbe asked when they would cut the tall grass. Ms. Fournier doesn't think you cut the tall grass, but she will research it. Mr. Abbe suggested planting bulbs in the fall. Chair Keegan said they need to keep in mind, the Selectman's interest in keeping the money in Town. Mr. Abbe asked if Mr. Dave Murray would be considered local. Chair Keegan said Mr. Murray and Black Forest Nursery are local. Mr. Abbe will start with Black Forest Nursery to find the mums. Ms. Fournier asked if Robert's Greenhouse or Ms. Lorrie Carrey could bring in mums. Chair Keegan said Ms. Carrey only takes cut flowers. Mr. Abbe will plant them in the next 3-weeks. Chair Keegan doesn't think they should do anything with the flagpole. Someone from the Police Department checks on it frequently and it is clean. The Committee will meet at the garden for fall maintenance, with a date to be determined based on growing conditions. Chair Keegan said Mr. Abbe suggested cutting back on the irrigation by 15 minutes. Mr. Abbe suggested turning it off for a week. Mr. Abbe is concerned with the lack of water. Ms. Fournier thinks the rain they have been getting hasn't been long durations of soaking rain. Ms. Fournier thinks augmentation of having the irrigation system from the bottom is beneficial. Chair Keegan noticed every time he moved the mulch, the bottom was wet. They think the mulch held a lot of water. Chair Keegan suggested giving Doug Tompson a call to ask what to do with the irrigation system.

- Mr. Dean Hollins will be flushing the line, so they need to decide when it needs to be done.
- **Update on Committee continuing:** Chair Keegan met with the Selectman, last Thursday, and they agreed to form a Town Beautification Committee. It would start on October 1st. There would be two accounts in the committee's budget. One would be the Circle Committee money. The other fund would be used to put the \$750 that they appropriated this year. If anyone wants to donate, it will go into the beautification fund. The two major items they are focusing on are the intersection at routes 3 & 4, as well as the new roundabout up at the ¾ split. Chair Keegan said according to TA Alan Hardy, they are starting the engineering groundwork. In terms of forming the new committee, Chair Keegan agreed to be the Chairman. The committee members are offered to join the new Beautification Committee. Instead of appointing members at the same time for a 3-year term, the Selectman would like to do it yearly so there is congruity and an exit clause. Ms. Nancy Towle doesn't want to take on more than the project at the junction. There will be flexibility to pick and choose. They need to start recruiting members for the new committee. Chair Keegan would like the Committee members to think about joining the new committee. Circle Committee members will let PCD Easler know if they are interested in joining the new Beautification Committee.

- Chair Keegan met twice with Ms. Nancy Towle to talk about how the Town is considering extending an irrigation line down to the intersection. Ms. Towle said that is her major impediment of doing that work. Ms. Lorrie Carey told Chair Keegan that Ms. Towle brings 50 gallons of water to that Circle and 30 gallons to the one at the junction. Ms. Towle said it

is getting to be too much. Chair Keegan and Ms. Towle did a walk around at the junction to see the way the land was and what her ideas are. Chair Keegan thinks it's about 350 ft at the point of where the hydrant is at the top of the hill. It is all DOT land, going further towards town. They would have to replicate the steps they did at the Circle but with less material needed. There are no pull boxes except for the electricity. They would have to find out what is underground. Chair Keegan sent an email to Henniker Directional Drilling. They came back with a preliminary quote of \$4,000 to do the three segments. Each segment was about 25 to 35 ft long. Ms. Towle has not worked with an agreement for DOT. Chair Keegan and Ms. Towle talked about putting a pull box somewhere near the lilacs. After seeing this and thinking about the implications for getting the irrigation all the way through, Chair Keegan thinks the pricing will be like the previous Circle project for the irrigation, \$10,000 to \$12,000. They wouldn't have the trencher that Doug Thompson let them borrow previously and some other complications. Ms. Fournier asked if the result would be pickets. Chair Keegan said it is an open question as of now. Chair Keegan is hoping to talk to Ms. Towle before he leaves on vacation, to bring her up to date on this information and that the new Committee will assemble on the 1st. Mr. Abbe thinks the project would be a lot more work than they think. Ms. Fournier doesn't think it is a good idea to get involved where Nancy Towle has already started work on the project. Chair Keegan said Ms. Towle isn't asking for help, she just wants the water to be manageable going forward. They need to determine if it would be spickett or underground, but the State would have to approve. TA Hardy is going to contact Richard Adwonksi to get that process started. They also talked about including a warrant article in the Town meeting to make the Committee's money a revolving fund. Chair Keegan proposed through the CIP process, which is long term planning, that the Town put some money in to enhance their fundraising. PCD Easler said because the members are already part of the Circle Committee, they wouldn't have to fill out an application. It would just be a new appointment and they would be sworn in. New members would have to fill out an application. They must be a Town resident to be a member, but volunteers don't need to be from the Town. Chair Keegan said the reason to form this committee now is, so they have a presence at the table during the State's planning process. Ms. Towle has already been thinking about the designs at the circle. Chair Keegan said there is a volunteer beautification group that he reached out to, but they are already dedicated to what they are doing. Ms. Cunningham was doing the beautification at the junction, but she moved. Ms. Towle has taken over for Ms. Cunningham. Chair Keegan will start trying to recruit generalist for the Beautification Committee. Chair Keegan wants to talk to Ms. Carey about how they can make connection with the class she runs at Merrimack Valley to recruit some young volunteers. Chair Keegan will ask Ms. Beverly Drouin about if she wants to join the new beautification committee.

- Mr. Abbe asked if they are up to date on 'Thank You' letters. Chair Keegan said he needs to ask Ms. Drouin but he believes so. They talked about keeping publicity going in the news vine.
- PCD Easler said their younger employees are involved with a lot of social media platforms. If they have any pictures they want to send to be posted, they can email PCD Easler or PCD

127 Assistant Kearsten O'Brien. Ms. Fournier sent a lot of pictures to Ms. Crystal Tuttle last
128 week.

- 129 • Chair Keegan asked the Committee to set a date for the first Beautification Committee. They
130 suggested the first meeting be November 8th at 7:00pm.

131 **Next Meeting:**

- 132 • TBD

133 **Adjournment:**

- 134 • Motion to adjourn by Ms. Fournier; Seconded by Mr. Abbe. All in favor. None opposed.

135 *Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner*