

**Town of Boscawen  
Beautification Committee  
116 North Main St  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** John Keegan – Chair, Beverly Drouin – Vice Chair, Leah Milano, & Bill Bevans – Ex-Officio.

**Members Excused:** Nancy Towle

**Staff Present:** Katie Phelps – Town Administrator

**Guests Present:** Joshua Crawford, Barbara Randall, Polly Dawson, Mark Parker, and Gary Tillman (virtual)

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 5:30 p.m. and completed roll call.

**Minutes:**

Minutes reviewed with no changes made.

**Chair Keegan motioned to approve the draft minutes as drafted. Motion seconded by Ms. Milano. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.**

**Financial Report:**

Subsequently Ex-Officio Bevans asked about the \$39.88 charge for tools reported to have been used for the rotary. It appears to have been inadvertently posted to the Beautification expense account #3514.1a. Chair Keegan will reach out to Finance Director Kate Merrill to ask if this charge is accurate.

**Chair Keegan motioned to approve the draft financial report. Seconded by Vice Chair Drouin. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.**

**Old Business:**

Chair Keegan opened the meeting and introduced Joshua Crawford who introduced himself as a local Vexillologist (study of flags), who is interested in gaining traction for the development and approval of a flag that represents the spirit and history of our community. Mr. Crawford brought several of his own designs to the meeting and also brought examples of town flags from other communities. He explained to those present that if the community had its own flag, that this design could potentially be used on bumper stickers, mugs, and other items. He took time to explain the symbolism in the various designs that depicted the crossroads of Routes 3 and 4, the story of Hannah Dustin, the Boscawen Church, two stars representing that at one time Boscawen and Webster were one community before then splitting into two towns, the green background represents agricultural, and the gears represent the Benjamin Morrill clock gears and our industrious past.

Mr. Crawford explained the five basic rules of flag design being a simple design, with meaningful symbolism. Mr. Crawford is asking community members present to provide input to help come up with a design that people think represents the community that can eventually be presented to the Select Board for approval. Mr. Crawford brought three different flags designs for attendees to view. The meeting then opened for public comment.

**Barbara Randall, 279 Daniel Webster Highway** – Very impressed with the “V” design that Mr. Crawford brought and was surprised about the article in the paper that contained certain opposition. She believes that including the Church and the Hannah Dustin monument symbols on the flag is a good idea. She thinks including the tannery is a good idea and thinks this design represents us well.

**Polly Dawson, 14 Woodbury Lane** – Likes the crossroad of NH design being presented but would make the lines smaller so they don’t come across as so aggressive. She would include the gears instead of the two stars that are on the design. She also thought instead of the lines being a crisscross she would bring the lines in straight.

Ms. Dawson also spoke on behalf of a friend who could not make the meeting who thought that instead of the Church building, that the Town Municipal facility should be the symbol.

**Mark Parker, 10 Prospect Street** – Presented his background so everyone would know where his perspective originated. He was raised Baptist but is now a Quaker. He believes in the separation of Church and State. He feels the story of Hannah Dustin is a violent part of our past that should not be celebrated. He is uneasy about including this symbolism. He would like a flag that represents a vision for the future. He would like us to consider our community’s background that includes our connection to the Abenaki. This region was originally the ‘Contoocook’ region which means ‘a place of the river named pines’ and thinks that the colors should include blue, green and a bright sun. He feels this would be more neutral. He would include the splitting of Routes 3 & 4. He also thinks the symbolism in the flags that Mr. Crawford has designed are too complex to draw, which is one of the five rules mentioned in the introduction.

**Beverly Drouin, 19 Tremont Street** – Asked Mr. Crawford about what symbolism he might include to link the design to our ‘agricultural community’. She also mentioned she would be interested in symbolism that represents the river, which is our playground and potentially include Mt. Kearsarge, which is our town’s background. We also have several gorgeous town buildings that could be included. She indicated that she is not afraid of the church and Hannah Dustin symbolism.

**Gary Tillman (online)** – He would like to see the town seal on the top, clock works and a barn at the two points at the bottom.

General discussion moved to getting additional feedback at the next session through Facebook and a ‘drop box’. Town Administrator Katie Phelps will assist with the installation of the ‘drop box’ and social media posts to get input through Facebook. Vice Chair Drouin suggested that any posts on the design of a town flag be put out on Facebook with specific questions to keep the conversation focused to gather usable feedback. Focused questions could be on color, symbolism etc.

**New Business:** None

**Other Business:** None

**Pending Tasks:**

*Town Administrator Phelps will install a drop box at the Municipal Facility to gather comments.*

*Town Administrator Phelps will post something on Facebook to solicit input.*

**Next Meeting:** Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm with the same link.

**Chair Keegan motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Drouin. All in favor. None opposed.  
Motion passed.**

*Respectfully submitted by Beverly Baer Drouin.*

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