

**Town of Boscawen, NH
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**MEETING MINUTES – Final
Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

Commissioners present: Elaine Clow, Acting Chair, William Bevans, Tina Larochelle, John Porter (Alternate voting)

Commissioners absent: John Keegan, Angela Swyers, Josh Marshall

Alternate Commissioners absent (Ex Officio): Roger Sanborn, and Alternate Commissioner Ken Marshall

Acting Chair Clow called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. The roll call was taken. John Porter was appointed to voting member this evening.

Draft Minutes

A motion to accept the March minutes with amendments was made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Bill Bevans and passed by a unanimous vote.

Accountant's Report

Elaine Clow noted that there is no accountant report this evening. They will table that to the next meeting.

Land Use Happenings

Elaine Clow has an update from Bruce on Land Use Happenings. Part of their reason for going to the Saving Special Places conferences last week was to see Amy Manzelli's section on Agritourism and look at the law as being attempted to be modified. What has happened with it is the consent calendar for the House ought to pass on April 20th. It has been bouncing back between the Senate and the House and it will go to a committee of conference. Bruce believes the Senate will concur with the current changes that the House has made. Elaine Clow read the excerpt into the record. They have removed certain words and added in verbiage. She read that into the record as well.

Educational Program

Elaine Clow said that the Cooperative Extension website had a glitch in the online registration for the first month's series of events. You can cut and paste the link and it will work, but not everyone knows that. They will have Candace start taking the registrations here at the Town and use agriculture03303@gmail.com as the email and see if they can get it straightened out at the Cooperative Extension. Due to this problem, they haven't had the number of people coming that they should.

Stacy Luke and Alyssa met with Tina and they went through what the Merrimack County Conservation District is doing in conjunction with CAP to bring food and farm produce together in Merrimack County. This handout goes through some of the programs and grants and various other things to help both farmers and people who live in food deserts to get them together. There are various grants you can apply for coming through the Federal Government. A few were named. There is also the Rural Energy for America program.

There is a SNAP program which is a match of folks that use food stamp cards (EBT Cards) and where they can spend it at farmer's markets. If they want to spend \$10 at a farmer's market, they would match them so they'd have \$20 to use to purchase food products. CAP program in Franklin is also going into subsidized housing to pick up people and take them to the Franklin Farmer's Market.

Elaine Clow said there is also a Capital Area local food guide. It is a survey of what's available by town in Merrimack County. They are asking if we can help get this out to some of our producers. They have an intern from Colby Sawyer who is putting together the research on this. The Colby Sawyer intern could not find any producers in Boscawen, Salisbury and Franklin. She put together who she could in Boscawen to send to the intern.

Community Garden

Bill Bevans spoke. They had a meeting on March 24th. Compost is in progress and herbs. Facebook is in progress. Bee hotel still hasn't been taken care of by Amy, but she is also getting signs for that. Jeff said there is 15, 24x24 plots which gives them 60 12x12 plots. April 7th there was a meeting with Jeff, himself, Sarah and Angela. Sarah talked with Michele Brochu who updated the Facebook page. The sign should be painted white with black letters that say Boscawen Community Garden so that it would be seen on the side of the road and he has Plexiglas to go on the top of that. He asked if they wanted to vote on the sign.

Motion to finalize the sign as noted was made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Bill Bevans and passed by a unanimous vote.

Plowing

Elaine said Roger Sanborn had been contacted. She and Jeff were going to work with him on it. Bill Bevans said that the irrigation system is pretty much all set, they only need 100 feet of pipe this year. There has been 5 applications this year so far. The girl that was given permission to give horse riding lessons will also get a garden plot there also. Jeff has eight (8) 5 foot posts from Colby's. The wildflower garden cannot be seen from the road, but Amy gave them a little plaque for that which is up. There will be one up for the Bee hotel when that is done. The posts are already put in. He said Jeff had asked if a port-a-pot for the garden center is feasible. Elaine Clow said that they had it for the month the first year for the plowing patch. Bill Bevans said that he knew at the church park they had it for 3 months there. He thinks 3 months should be good. Elaine Clow said the garden committee should check into it and make a decision. Bill Bevans spoke about the fertilizer and Charlie Jaworski will spread it when they get it. Sarah has got a publication date for the Green Thumb Gazette. He spoke about going through the Town to see if they need to approve it before they send it out. He said Nicole Hoyt told him to send it out. Bill Bevans said that if that wasn't a problem on the Board she would compile the email address and email it out. Then it would come out May, June, July, August and September. A synopsis would also be sent out to the News Vine for more exposure. Bill Bevans also talked about a picture that came from Ashland Agriculture Commission with offerings of free seeds, free gardening tools, etc. Angela Fellers talked to him about teaming up with the Summer Rec program. The Garden Committee concluded that having 50 kids charging up there would be a bad idea, but if 5 kids want to go up and tend the gardens, that's fine. He's not sure if that would be something the Board would like that done. There should also be someone there to supervise them. The Board agreed with the supervision. Elaine Clow said that maybe they should have a proposal for the next meeting. He passed out copies of the past Minutes to the Board.

Saving Special Places and Workshops – both Elaine Clow and Bruce attended the Agritourism and Keynote. She did Crowd Funding in terms of Grant Writing and her third workshop was with LCHIP on grant writing.

This conference is once a year in Alton. They have lunch and snacks included. She was impressed by the conference.

Elaine gave the Board an update on John Keagan's health.

Recognition

Bill Bevans passed out a pamphlet that he found on a wall at a restaurant in Ashland that showed where their food and meat comes from. He thought it was interesting. He polled 5 restaurants. Restaurant 1 on the list bought local peppers and tomatoes from Canterbury. What he is hearing is that the cost outweighed the benefit. Few restaurants are buying local. Elaine Clow asked about the restaurant in Ashland. Bill Bevans said Dot's Place.

New Business

Bill Bevans noted that the Town of Salisbury is starting a Farmer's Market on Monday's from 3 pm to 6 pm and it is at the Town Hall up in the middle of town. He thinks they have 10 vendors.

Alan stated that Adam Mock is doing some roofing on the Silver Place and he is tackling that part next.

Elaine Clow asked if they would be doing beef or milking. Alan said mostly beef.

Elaine Clow asked about North Water Street and what the Mocks are doing up there. They bought a piece of landlocked land that attached to another piece that they bought up there. Alan states that it connects to the Silver place and that rumor has it that they will be building a house there.

John Porter asked if anything has been started on the poultry place. Elaine Clow said that the foundations were supposed to go in in April.

John Porter said he held an open house at his home. He did a solar energy system with Revision Energy. He installed solar panels, heat pump and a hot water heater too. About 35 people came. They asked him to put up his electric bills before and after. He doesn't have an electric bill. He pays \$10.27 a month. He's been more than self-sufficient since they were installed. He's been very pleased. He said Revision Energy is out of Exeter. It's nice technology. Not much is involved in the upkeep; just keeping an eye on filters in the heaters. The panels are self-sufficient. He's been generating very good during the winter. He's made over 3500 kW since he's had it installed. He's in the process of trying to sell some to MA. Elaine Clow asked if it was economically worthwhile. He said yes. He said it was a roof top unit. They covered about 15 feet by 50 feet of it. Elaine asked if the grants covered a good portion of the installation cost. Alan said the grants covered about 1/3 of the cost.

Meeting adjourn moved, seconded and passed by a unanimous vote at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Rose Fife