

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Boscawen Municipal Complex
Meeting Minutes - Final
September 14, 2017 at 7:00pm

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans – Vice-Chair, Rusty Colby, Joshua Marshall, John Porter, Tina Larochelle.

Members Ex-Officio Absent: Roger Sanborn

Alternate Member Absent: Ken Marshall

Others Present: Guest, Jared Reynolds

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm with a voting board.

Roll call made by Chairman Keegan.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from the August 10, 2017 meeting. Commission members accepted the minutes as written.

Motion made by Joshua Marshall and seconded by Tina Larochelle to accept the minutes from the June meeting as written. All in favor.

Accountant's Report:

The Commission reviewed the Treasurer's Report from January 1st thru September 14, 2017.

Motion made by Tina Larochelle and seconded by Joshua Marshall to accept the Accountant's report. All in favor.

Land Use Updates:

- Recognition of Highway View Farm: John Porter was going to the Big-E to attend the recognition banquet for Adam Crete. Progress is being made on getting the banner made with the larger print without the Green pastures lettering.
- Jared Reynolds: Extension Specialist, Community and Economic Development. Explanation of his position and receive feedback from the board on how he could be a resource. Jared Reynolds from Cooperative Extension introduced himself to the committee. He recently started as the Community and Economic Development Field Specialist with Extension for Merrimack County. He talked about his role at Extension, the types of programming that he is available to do, and what support he can offer Boscawen. Jared is planning on meeting with other committees and individuals in Boscawen as he gets started and hopes that he can work with the Ag. Commission in the coming months. Members of the AgComm shared some of their thoughts on development in town. Concerns about taxation emerged, for example, what types of tax incentives might AgComm encourage; what does AgComm see as our role in leading such changes; the issues of shifting the tax burden and/or adding to tax base. Other ideas included: welcoming/marketing agriculture in Boscawen; an educational program, including farm

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visits, for tax assessors with experts to explain how agricultural practices are evolving, focusing on such items as buildings vs equipment. Open houses similar to what was done at Tom Giovagnoli's egg farm. Looking at the latter idea more broadly, John Porter suggested that this might be a project for AgComm's statewide to do collaboratively. He will explore the interest at the Monadnock Gathering on the 28th and report at the October meeting.

- Tasking AgComm the duty of blending dairy goats into pets: Related to issues Alan is having with farm animals being called pets in residential areas. Commissioners discussed possible/probable problems with allowing goats in residential areas. Similar issues have arisen with horses, pigs, and chickens. Commissioner consensus is the town needs to follow previous policy on limiting farm animals in residential areas and have a mechanism to evaluate individual cases. In light of this, AgComm needs to revisit the actual wording and policy at the next meeting. Josh made a motion that the Boscawen AgComm advises that ownership of goats be considered under current regulations for farm animals, including zoning regulations, to be reviewed at our next meeting. Tina seconded. All in favor.

Old Business:

Agricultural Rack Card: Members took assignments of placing them in various businesses (See below). Decided to wait on any re-printing to we see how these are used up. Chairman tasked to make sure rack cards are on the town's web site and Facebook page easy to find. Some positive feedback from farm stands and customers has already been received.

Planned Distribution as follows:

John Porter: Kapelli's, Riverside Vet

John K: Black Forest (already done), Smoke Shack, National Lumber, Dunkin Donuts

Rusty: Barn Store, Colby Lumber

Bill: Bittersweet Fabrics, Marshall Firearms

Tina: Alan's Restaurant, Richardson's Ice Cream, Blackwater Vet

Josh: Marshall's Florist, Marshall Pumpkin Farm

Educational Program Update: Possible support for 'first Monday' might be found with a Master Gardener needing a service project. Chair will contact Dot Perkins to explore the possibility prior to the October meeting.

No report available on how Jeremy's program went on September 11.

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Community Garden Update: Wrapping up things; getting ready for cover crop; harvest supper on September 21.

New Business:

Other- John Porter will represent Ag Com at the Keene Ag Com Conference on September 28.

Motion to adjourn made by Joshua Marshall and seconded by John Porter. All in favor.
The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October 12, 2017 at 7pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Keegan