

# Town of Boscawen, NH

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Boscawen Municipal Complex

### MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Thursday, January 14, 2016

**Commissioners Present:** John Keegan, Chair; Elaine Clow, Vice Chair; Bill Bevans, Tina Larochelle, Josh Marshall and Angela Swyers.

**Commissioner Absent (Ex Officio):** Roger Sanborn

**Alternate Commissioner Absent:** Ken Marshall

**Others present:** Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director

---

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Vice Chair Elaine Clow, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Accounting Report

Motion was made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Angela Swyers to approve the Accounting Report, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Land Use Happenings

- **Status of Proposed Zoning Changes for Town Meeting:**

Alan reported Public Hearing held on December 8 did not result in any discussion or changes in the proposals. They are now ready for Town Meeting and the Commission will have the opportunity to review the proposals one more time in final form before they are voted on at Town Meeting.

- **Other:**

Included in the meeting books was an article, ‘Timber Hill Farm Neighbor files suit, wants restraining order to stop events’ from the January 8<sup>th</sup> *Local News*. The article chronicles the agritourism dispute in Gilford that has simmered much of the past year.

The Ag license plate issue discussed in prior meetings has been investigated by the State Police. Three individuals who had secured Ag plates have had them revoked due to improper use.

Alan reported one parcel with agricultural potential has changed hands recently. A 77 acre plot, known as the lot has been purchased by an individual who plans to develop a farm and bread and breakfast. Also, a 178 acre lot further up Route 3 on the left side has been purchased by a party that may subdivide two lots but plans to keep the rest intact and open where possible. Both of these parcels are zoned residential 1.

Alan informed members that the town website is being serviced by a new provider, Virtual Town & School. He did not have completion date but reported it will be more interactive and robust. He will keep us up-to-date.

Alan noted the town report is being assembled and may be dedicated to an agricultural enterprise or have an agriculture themed cover photograph. The Chair thanked Josh for editing and assembling the Commission's town report as well as each of the Commissioners who contributed to it.

### **Old Business:**

- **Legislative Update**

Josh Marshall provided the most recent copy of HB 1141 the House agritourism bill, with an amendment proposed by Farm Bureau which Josh and Bruce Crawford report has received favorable reviews and support from many quarters. Josh and Bruce will keep the Commission informed of the bill's status. Josh also reported that four agriculturally-related bills concerning tractor plates, workman's comp, direct sale of farm raised bison and a bill concerning the speed and closeness to which vehicles pass horses on public ways are on the legislative calendar.

- **Educational Program**

Vice Chairwoman Clow said that a January 4<sup>th</sup> program discussing maple syrup production for beginners with Tim Fleury was very successful. Thirty-five attendees from six counties attended, including a representative of the NH Maple Producers Association. Upcoming programs include Raising Chickens: The Basics with Dot Perkins on February 1<sup>st</sup>; Emerald Ash Borer with Tim Fleury on March 7<sup>th</sup>; Soil with Stacey Luke on April 4<sup>th</sup> and, IPM with Ann LaCroix on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Elaine is contacting Nada Haddad to do a program on 'value added food s' but has yet to confirm the date and topic.

- **Community Garden: 2016 Plans**

The Chair did not contact Rhoda Hardy to see what the food pantry needs. This action item remains pending. The action item for Josh and Angela is also open.

**Action Plan: Chairman Keegan asked Josh Marshall to follow-up with Angela Swyers on the status of the metal sign to be done by the Correctional Facilities office.**

**Action Plan: Chairman Keegan will talk with Rhoda Hardy to see what the food pantry needs prior to the February 2016 meeting.**

### **New Business:**

- **2016 Budget: Invasive Control Program**

Financing for controlling invasives will be included in the Public Work's budget who will be looking for support from the Agricultural Commission when they go before the Budget Committee. The Commission

passed a motion of support for the Public Works Department putting funds in their budget for an invasive control program.

**Action Plan: Elaine made the motion and Tina seconded the motion to support the Public Works Director's insertion of an invasive control program in the Public Works budget for 2016.**

- **2016 Projects: Restaurant Recognition**

This will be an agenda item at an upcoming meeting.

**Action Plan: Members will talk with local restaurant owners to determine how they would like to be recognized and report the results at the February meeting.**

- **New member recruitment**

The Chair raised the issue of continuing to look for a new younger member. The Chair wants to reach out to the Winnisquam Regional High School Agricultural Program to see if they have a student interested in participating. Commissioner Merrill, in a recent *Market Bulletin* editorial, identified these programs as a source of future agricultural leaders.

**Action Plan: The Chair will contact the school to identify a Boscawen resident who may have an interest in becoming a Commission member.**

- **Collaboration with neighboring Ag Commissions**

Vice Chairwoman Elaine Clow believes that we can become more productive by sharing information, ideas and programs with neighboring agricultural commissions. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

**Action Plan: To continue discussion at the February meeting.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Angela Swyers and was seconded by Tina Larochelle. All Commission members approved and the meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:** February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

*Minutes are respectfully submitted by John Keegan and Alan Hardy*