

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes – Draft
Boscawen Municipal Complex – 4th Floor Meeting Room
May 11, 2017 at 7pm

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevens, Josh Marshall

Members Absent: Elaine Clow – Vice-Chair, Tina Larochelle, Angela Swyers, Roger Sanborn

Alternate Members Present: John Porter

Alternate Members Absent: Ken Marshall

Others Present: Jeff Abbe – Garden Committee Member

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and named John Porter a voting member for the meeting.

Roll Call made by Chairman Keegan.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from the April 13, 2017 meeting.

Motion made by Bill Bevens and seconded by Josh Marshall to accept the minutes from the April meeting as written. All in favor.

Accountant's Report:

The Commission reviewed the Treasurer's Report from January 1st thru May 9, 2017. There has been \$1,867.58 spent from the Community Garden budget line. Garden plot fees totaled \$550.

Motion made by Josh Marshall and seconded by Bill Bevens to accept the Accountant's Report. All in favor.

Community Garden Updates – Jeff Abbe:

Jeff Abbe spoke with Mike Valinski about arranging to move the garden shed base to the Community Garden. Mr. Valinski's plan is to do the finish the build Memorial Day weekend. The gravel base is set and ready for the shed onsite. Transport options are still in the works. Jeff will check with National Lumber for assistance. If that is not fruitful, John Keegan will ask Tom Giovagnoli for assistance.

Jeff was able to secure a six foot door from Big Jim's – which is bigger than he originally anticipated. Mike Valinski has the rough opening measurements to accommodate the new door.

Jeff said the garden is filling up. He expects a full garden this year. A lot of last year's gardeners are taking their plots back. A few have asked for different plots.

Jeff would like permission from the Agricultural Commission to grow pumpkins to donate to the Boscawen Elementary School and the Audubon Society. No one objected.

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Josh Marshall asked if there is a timeframe for tilling the unused sections at the garden because he doesn't have his equipment ready yet. Jeff said whenever he is ready. Josh Marshall said Tom Giovagnoli is still willing to transport his tractor to the garden.

Jeff reported there is good compost available this year but the quantity is limited. Jeff asked if the 'pieboard' garden sign on Corn Hill Road could be relocated to the town land on the corner of Corn Hill Road and Route 4. The Chair will pass the request on to Alan Hardy who will ask permission from the Board of Selectmen.

Land Use Updates:

Alan was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Keegan asked if anyone has heard how the Boscawen Congregational Church Farmer's Market is doing. Bill Bevans said they don't have a lot of people signed-up because of insurance. Vendors must have an insurance rider for liability. Some farmers they had contacted last year have prior commitments this season. Chairman Keegan said the church is allowed to have the farmers market by right, but should check with the Planning Office to process the Site Plan Review for this activity. Chairman Keegan said he was surprised they had not contacted the Agricultural Commission.

Bill Bevans volunteered to contact church members regarding the Site Plan Review requirement.

Rack Card Development:

Josh Marshall updated a new draft of the rack card with farmer information that was passed on to him. He did an alternate version which removed a lot of the content on the front and added more farmer names instead. Josh is still waiting to hear back from all Commissioners and staff prior to the June meeting so he can present the 'final' draft on June 8th. Josh thinks that if we try to fit a lot of information on the back that the font will be too small. He would also like to put the information in alphabetical order. John Porter noted that the AgComm needed to be included on the card as well. In addition, Katie Phelps's extension will be added to the card as the source for new cards when their supply is running low and needs to be replenished. Josh thinks the card looks great with the first 5 farmers listed on the front of the card. John Porter said he liked the blue version. The Commission agreed that they liked the blue version best. Josh would like to get an updated picture from Adam and Patricia Crete. He will have a photo release signed. Chairman Keegan recommended using the Community Garden photo release form which the town's insurer has already approved. The Commission will purchase plastic holders after they determine how many are needed and where they will go. After the final draft is complete Josh will forward the file to Alan Hardy to send to the printing company.

The Commission discussed where they might want the rack cards to go. Possible options included:

Kapelli's

Town Office

Chiropractor Office

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Alan's Restaurant

Richardson's Ice Cream

Buster's Service Ctr

Bradley's Pizza

Avaloch Farm

The Barn Store

National Lumber

Black Forest Nursery

Kiosk at the Garden

The Smoke Shack

Cumberland Farms (?)

Bittersweet Fabrics

Dunkin Donuts (?)

Marshall's Firearms

Riverside Veterinary

Marshall's Florist

Blackwater Veterinary

The corporate entities may be harder to entice to participate based on Josh and John Porter's history. Josh asked that a reminder be sent out to Commissioners and staff to get him the information for all the farmers as soon as possible.

Two packages of ten plastic holders should be enough. Commissioners anticipate that the rack card will give the Agricultural Commission a presence in the community.

Other:

Chairman Keegan asked the Commission what else they could do this year. John Porter thought it was great that we had a project going with the rack card and garden shed.

Angela Swyers term will be ending at the end of June and she doesn't wish to renew.

John Porter asked if Jeff Abbe would be a potential Commissioner. Chairman Keegan said he is part of the Conservation Commission and as far as he knows the Selectmen are reluctant to have someone on more than one board, committee, or commission. He has been comfortable volunteering his time at the garden.

Motion to adjourn made by John Porter and seconded by Joshua Marshall. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Next meeting of the Commission will be June 8, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps