

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Boscawen Municipal Complex
Draft - Public Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans – Vice-Chair, Rusty Colby, John Porter,
2 Tina Larochelle, Alan Hardy, Linda Chandonnet.
3 Member Ex-Officio Absent: Roger Sanborn
4 Alternate Member Absent: Ken Marshall
5

6 Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:06pm with a voting board.
7

8 Roll call made by Chairman Keegan.
9

10 Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

11 The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from the September 14, 2017 meeting. Commission
12 members requested to correct spelling on line 44 to Giovagnoli's.
13

14 **Motion: Made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Rusty Colby to accept the minutes from the**
15 **September 14, 2017 meeting as amended, all in favor, none opposed.**
16

17 Accountant's Report:

18 The Commission reviewed the Financial Report from January 1st thru October 12, 2017.
19

20 **Motion: Made by Tina Larochelle and seconded by John Porter to accept the Financial**
21 **Report, all in favor, none opposed.**
22

23 Land Use Updates:
24

- 25 • Recognition of Highway View Farm: Mr. Porter went to the Big-E Banquet and Adam
26 and his family did a great presentation. It was well received and quite a big crew went
27 with his family. In all there were 6 presentations.
- 28 • Chairman Keegan asked Alan Hardy when the banner will be done. Mr. Hardy presented
29 the board with a copy of the banner made with the larger print without the Green Pastures
30 lettering. As soon as the banner is printed a date will be set for the presentation.
31

32 Review of Pet Regulations:

- 33 • Chairman Keegan asked the board to look at the definition of pets from Article XII
34 Definitions of the current Zoning Ordinance. His question is if they think the regulation
35 as written covers the issues being presented with pygmy goats and if it is sufficiently
36 clear. Director Hardy added, if someone in an R2 zone decides to have a pygmy goat, the
37 way the definition reads but livestock and would not be allowed except by a Special
38 Exception. At the request of John Porter the Commissioners reviewed the definition of
39 'livestock' to insure that definition complimented that of 'pet' in a logical manner, which
40 it does. It was determined to send a letter to the Planning Board and characterize our
41 determination that no changes were necessary in the ordinance.
42

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43 **Motion: Made by John Porter for John Keegan to send a letter to the Planning Board.**
44 **Seconded by Tina Larochelle, all in favor, none opposed.**
45

46 Director Hardy added if this becomes an issue, he will ask the ZBA for a special exception for
47 agricultural. Chairman Keegan asked the board if this seemed fair, all agreed, none opposed.
48

49 **Summary of Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition Meeting:**

50 Mr. Porter passed around a summary to the board of his presentation to the Monadnock Farm
51 and Community Coalition Meeting on September 18, 2017. He presented our projects and
52 positive relationships with the town boards and commissions (See attached copy, Appendix 1).
53 He said there were over 50-60 attendees, unfortunately there was not much discussion.
54 However, many people were interested in what they panelist had to say. He stated that he has
55 only heard positive things since the meeting. Mr. Porter passed around a business pamphlet from
56 the Lee Agricultural Commission which included business cards for the listing of farms. What he
57 took away from hearing other panelists, is they had emphasized keeping communications going
58 within the town such as getting on the town website and having weekly updates.
59

60 Director Hardy mentioned how Boscawen's website has options to check off boxes if you want
61 something sent to you automatically. He also talked about the 91-A Law and how the town
62 website has both draft minutes and final minutes on the website.
63

64 Chairman Keegan asked the Commissioners if they had thought about an educational program
65 that would reach the assessor community to help them understand the evolving tax issues related
66 to modern farming practices, particularly new technologies. Mr. Porter stated that the appropriate
67 way of doing this may be to go through the N.H. Municipal Association. Their annual meeting
68 is in November. The Barn Preservation Committee, of which John is a member, has found this a
69 useful path to reach municipal officials, including municipal assessors.
70

71 Director Hardy and John Porter talked about the details of tax bills and evaluation, noting that
72 farms are sometimes taxed incorrectly.

73 There is not enough time to prepare well for this year's annual meeting but we can reach-out to
74 interested parties and educate ourselves about these issues. However, their website link will be
75 sent out to the members for information and possible attendance. Chairman Keegan suggested
76 planning to participate in next year's N.H. Municipal Association Annual Meeting with a
77 program focused on education assessors and municipal officials about property taxation of farms.
78 Meanwhile, Mr. Porter suggested bringing assessor Mark Stetson and Paul Franklin, a farmer
79 and retired revenue officer to our next meeting to educate commission member, all in favor, none
80 opposed.
81

82 Director Hardy will be reaching out to assessor Mark Stetson to attend our November meeting
83 and Mr. Porter will reach out to Paul Franklin. Chairman Keegan will be talking to Roger

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84 Sanborn, our Selectman, and Bruce Crawford, Chair of the Planning Board about to attending.
85 Mention was also made of inviting Amy Manzelli, of BCM Environmental & Land Law.

86

87 Next Month's Agenda:

88 Budget Development

89 Mark Stetson to attend our AG Comm's November Meeting.

90 Paul Franklin to attend our AG Comm's November Meeting.

91 Roger Sanborn our Selectman and Bruce Crawford, Chair of the Planning Board invite to attend
92 our AG Comm's November Meeting.

93

94 Old Business:

95 Agricultural Rack Cards: All members gave a status report on the rack card stocks at stores.

96 They say people are picking them up and reading them and then putting them back. Director

97 Hardy suggested to add a coupon next year such as a discounted ice cream.

98 We are currently out of rack cards, we will watch how the stores do and what happens then

99 decide what to do. Rack card holders are still available if needed.

100

101 Educational Program:

102 Chairman Keegan reported he did talk to Dot Perkins, and she thinks it a good idea to have a

103 master gardener work on the educational program. She didn't know of anyone specifically but

104 she will be talking to the instructors and will get back to him. They are scheduled for November
105 or December.

106

107 Community Garden:

108 Chairman Keegan mentioned the cover crop has been mowed, and there is still quite a few

109 sunflowers left. The last time he had talked to Jeff Abbe they were in the process of trying to get

110 people to clean up their plots and there was still some work to be done. He will be talking again

111 to Jeff and see how that's going. The shed is still in good shape and they are still making

112 compost. Last he checked the herb garden was active.

113

114 New Business:

115 Mr. Porter asked if they were going to be doing any warrant articles that relate to tax incentives.

116 Director Hardy stated the tax incentive issues is something Mark Stetson from Avitar would be

117 able to expand on.

118

119 **MOTION: To adjourn made by Bill Bevans, seconded by Tina Larochelle, all in favor,**
120 **none opposed.**

121

122 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

123

124

125 **Next Meeting:**

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126 The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 9, 2017 at 7pm.

127

128 Self-Education will be discussed.

129

130 *Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Chandonnet*

DRAFT