

Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 14th, 2022, at 6:30 PM

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, John Porter-Vice Chair, Ralph Odell, Gary Tillman, Bill Bevans, Roger Sanborn, Julie Fournier-Alternate

Staff Present: Planning and Community Development Clerk Kara Gallagher

Absent: Tatyanna Wunschel-Alternate

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call complete.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes: Mr. Odell requested changes to lines 35, 41 & 44, change ‘Bavella’ to ‘Falabella’.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the 06.09.22 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report: Mr. Tillman stated the Financial Report doesn’t show the current -monthly breakdown of expenses. Chair Keegan will ask Finance Director Kate Merrill for clarification. Mr. Tillman asked for an update on the background check reimbursement line. Chair Keegan said FD Merrill used her own cash and was reimbursed.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report through 07.14.22 with the conditional change noted. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Mr. Tillman will track Commissioner Tasks for July.

Master Plan: Chair Keegan updated the Master Plan status. There is still an issue with who wants to be listed on the next addition of the Rack Cards. Chair Keegan has a list of people who offered to give up their spot. Mr. Sanborn, Mr. Odell, and Mr. Bevans will continue to follow up with Dan Remillard, Roderick Day, and Lisa West. Mr. Tillman requested a change to the Research and Objectives Section of the Master Plan. Line 22, change ‘current slate’ to ‘original slate’. All concurred. Vice Chair John Porter requested another change, line 22. Change ‘includes’ to ‘included’. All concurred.

Pustizzi Property: Chair Keegan, Vice Chair Porter and Mr. Bevans took a field trip to the Pustizzi property to follow-up on sight developments since Mr. Pustizzi’s presentation and discussion with the Commission earlier in the year. Vice Chair Porter said he has roughed out the first structure with wood construction. The other camps will be yurt type structures. Mr. Pustizzi’s biggest challenge will be the water availability to the dispersed yurts for washing, showering and cooking, and then managing that wastewater. The toilet will be an outhouse on a

septic tank. The Commissioners recommended an engineer be engaged to assess wastewater handling for each unit and develop a workable budget. Mr. Pustizzi has already built a tower/tank system on site to which he pumps water from a well on his property. The water could then flow by gravity to yurts. Mr. Pustizzi is also considering a tower for each yurt. The Commissioners suggested central distribution during the visit. During the discussion Mr. Tillman concurred central distribution would be desirable. Further discussion ensued. Vice Chair Porter observed that overall it is a great project, if Mr. Pustizzi can keep his costs under control.

Composting: Chair Keegan reported no one showed up to the composting education program earlier in the week. Library Director Bonnie John, recommended spreading out the sessions or having different phases in the future. Chair Keegan reported the Library provided the funding. The originally scheduled second program had been postponed due to the presenter contracting COVID. Mr. Tillman asked if they advertised for the rescheduled date. Chair Keegan responded yes, they had publicized everything the same way except handing out flyers at the Transfer Station. Chair Keegan said, 'lesson learned', in the future we will spread out the programs over a longer time and/or offer different phases related to the same subject matter. All concurred. Chair Keegan reminded Commissioners there will be an education program on building compost bins at the Community Garden later in the summer.

New Business:

Farm Service Agency Nominations: Chair Keegan reminded Commissioners that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) sent out a mailing reminding recipients to run for the County Committee or nominate qualified individuals. Chair Keegan said nominations are open until August 1st if anyone is interested. This Committee controls access to several USDA programs.

Transportation Improvement Fees RSA 261: 153 VI: Vice Chair Porter brought up an agricultural related concern from a discussion at the most recent Economic Development Committee meeting. Committee members had discussed the feasibility of introducing a warrant article at the 2023 town meeting seeking approval of the transportation improvement fee in Boscawen. This would enable the Town to add up to a \$5 fee per registered vehicle. The money collected would be used for special transportation related projects in Town. The Economic Development Committee is interested in the fee to help cover costs associated with new improvements proposed for King Street. Vice Chair Porter expressed the concern that farmers would disproportionately carry the financial burden. For example, the Highway View Farm may have 20+ registered vehicles. Vice Chair Porter asked for Commissioners input. Mr. Bevans is not in favor and stated the only exceptions would be for ATV's, antique motor vehicles and motorcycles. Mr. Odell had paid the fee when he lived in Pittsfield. He said some people thought it was a great idea to have funds available for sidewalk repair. Mr. Tillman mentioned there should be an exception or maximum payment for farmers. Vice Chair Porter responded he could find no such exception for any class of vehicle save those identified by Mr. Bevans. Discussion ensued but no consensus emerged.

Welcome to Boscawen Signs: Committee members were assigned to signs around town to keep an eye on. Chair Keegan said Mr. Jeff Abbe watches the sign at the Exit 17 Circle. Chair Keegan

received feedback that the sign is ‘too busy and difficult to read while negotiating the roundabout’ from a visitor who came into town through Exit 17. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Porter wants to check the condition of a couple signs. He said the Penacook sign looks bad again.

Old Home Day Sheep: Mr. Sanborn gave an update on the sheep cutouts. They currently have 30 cutouts distributed. The sheep will be displayed at houses around town on August 21st. The judges have been secured. Mr. Sanborn said they can display a list of the winners at Twiggs Art Gallery. They will have Boscawen themed prizes for winners. Planning and Community Development Clerk Gallagher asked if AgComm funds could be used to buy prizes if donations are insufficient. Chair Keegan suggested using garden fees.

Vice Chair Porter motioned to use up to \$300 of the garden fees to buy prizes for the Twiggs Art Gallery Sheep Contest. Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Future AgComm Projects: Vice Chair Porter noted that this Commission works best if we have a ‘project’ on the agenda and this might be a good time to think about our next project. Chair Keegan opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Fournier has noticed traffic on King Street is horrible for farmers driving farm vehicles who are negotiating the junction of Routes 3 and 4. She asked what, if anything, AgComm could do to improve the situation. She suggested this might also help Mr. Sanborn, who lives in the same area. They both noted there is currently no speed limit sign from Dollar General to the 3 and 4 split. Discussion ensued. Both members also cited excessive speed, tailgating and cut-outs, cut-arounds and overly aggressive driving as behaviors they frequently witness. Chair Keegan noted the DOT surveyors are currently working on King Street and the planning process is underway. For some around the table it is unclear if the planning process is ongoing or if Community input is ‘closed’. The Commission could ask to have a seat on the table for community input, if there is still access. Chair Keegan will consult with Select Board Chair Lorrie Carey about the status of potential Commission input.

Tasks for July:

- Mr. Sanborn, Mr. Odell, and Mr. Bevans will continue their follow up with Ms. Millard, Ms. West and Mr. Remillard.
- Reminder of the FSA Nominations.
- Vice Chair Porter will talk to Concord Monitor about pictures for the sheep cutouts.
- Chair Keegan will talk to Ms. Carey about King St and the improvements for traffic.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, August 11th, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Tillman. Seconded by Mr. Bevans. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner