

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, John Porter – Vice Chair, Gary Tillman, Ralph Odell, Julie Fournier – Alternate & Lorrie Carey – Alternate Ex-Officio

Excused: Roger Sanborn & Bill Bevans – Ex-Officio

Others Present: Kara Gallagher – Planning and Community Development Assistant & Recording Secretary

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 p.m. and completed roll call.

Minutes:

- Vice Chair Porter requested one change: Line 57-58 – Sentence to read “They grow crops at 3 locations: land is leased at Pustizzi’s Fruit Farm in Boscawen and St. Paul’s School in Concord, and a location in Dunbarton owned by Fresh Start Farms.”
- Vice Chair Porter requested one change: Line 86 – Remove “as well” at the end of the sentence.
- Chair Keegan requested one change: Line 111 – Change “belonged to” to “is farmed by”.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the 09/21/23 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Chair Keegan asked how the Commissioners felt about the presented format. All agreed that they liked the report as presented. Chair Keegan asked PCD Assistant Gallagher to give Finance Director Kate Merrill the positive feedback.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report through 10/10/23 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Economic Development Committee 1st Annual Pumpkin Ride & Walk Preparations: Vice Chair Porter said the event was coming along nicely. Alternate Ex-Officio Carey wrote an article for the *Concord Monitor* to advertise the event. Merrimack County Nursing Home also advertised the event on their website. Alternate Ex-Officio Carey said there will be two Bike Repair Workshops, one at Gerrish Depot Station and one at Jamie Welch Park. Town Administrator Katie Phelps and her family will be running the Pumpkin Craft table. Elektrisola is sponsoring pumpkins that will be purchased locally at Marshall’s and Fresh Start Farms. Franklin Savings Bank will be sponsoring the donuts in the morning for the Costumed Bike Ride. Batulo’s Kitchen, Kate’s Confections & Fresh Start Farms will be vendors. Mr. Mason Donovan is donating Richardson’s apple crisp for after the Kid’s Costumed Walk. Alternate Ex-Officio Carey said they are still short on volunteers for the event. She will provide tableware for the Apple Crisp but is short on bowls.

Chair Keegan and PCD Assistant Gallagher thought they may have some and will let Alternate Ex-Officio Carey know if they can donate them. Chair Keegan and Vice Chair Porter will be helping Ms. Emma Richmond Boudewyns of Fresh Start Farms move her inventory to the park at 8 a.m. The event will be rain or shine and vendors may set up under the portico at Dorval House.

New Business:

Community Garden Update: Mr. Jeff Abbe created the end of season letter which was sent to all gardeners last week. He encouraged the gardeners to help with end of season clean up, and if they wanted the same plot next year to apply early. Chair Keegan and Mr. Abbe discussed Asian Jumping Worms and have asked the gardeners in the letter for their opinions on what could be put in place for safeguards at the garden. To date there has been no feedback. At the Beautification Committee meeting Ms. Nancy Towle said the nurseries have been getting information about these worms and Ms. Suzanne Maze, owner of Black Forest Nursery, would have more information. Alternate Ex-Officio Carey said UNH Cooperative Extension did a piece on the worms with WMUR. She said the video clip would be useful to see what the worms look like. The behavior of the worm is different than an earthworm as they are more energetic. Chair Kegan also noted the eggs that sometimes come in on potted plants are very difficult to distinguish. Ruth Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator, could also be a great resource. Mr. Odell thinks this information would be important to share for general knowledge. Ex-Officio Bevans plans to talk to Public Works Director Dean Hollins about the proper disposal of flowers, plants, and brush at the Transfer Station.

Market Bulletin: Vice Chair Porter was recognized as one of the Agricultural Adventurers Award winners at the “Big E”. Also within the Market Bulletin was a recognition for Mr. Steve Geddes, a Boscawen resident, for growing a 757-pound pumpkin that was sculpted at the “Big E”.

Federal Farm Bill Status: Chair Keegan contacted Ryan Hyde, his contact at Representative Anne Kuster’s office but has not yet received a response. As soon as he receives the update, it will be circulated to the Commissioners.

NH Preservation Alliance: Chair Keegan said the membership has lapsed and he’d like the Commissioners to consider renewing the membership.

Mr. Tillman motioned to renew the NH Preservation Alliance membership for another year. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Other Business:

Beautification Committee Welcome to Boscawen Sign: Vice Chair Porter reported that he saw the new sign installed on Tremont Street by Briar Hydro and that it looked nice. Chair Keegan said the whole project cost about a third of the original estimate, thanks to a \$1500 donation by Briar Hydro, Mr. Dan Nudd of Briar Hydro, and a friend at Swenson Granite. The Boscawen Public Works Department crew dug the holes for the granite posts. There may be a small balance from the Briar Hydro donation. Chair Keegan has asked Briar Hydro to consider donating any balance to the Beautification Committee.

New Rail Trail Kiosk: Vice Chair Porter said the new kiosk was constructed at the Boscawen Town Park on Depot Street. Alternate Ex-Officio Carey said it took about two years of planning. The Friends of the

Northern Rail Trail built the kiosk, and only asked to be reimbursed for materials. Chair Keegan said it looked great.

Commercial Street Update: Vice Chair Porter said Commercial Street has been blacktopped. This is not the final coat because there will be infrastructure work in the future, but it is nice for now.

Planning Board River Walk Visioning Session: The walk took place on September 9th on Commercial Street. There were about 20 residents present. It was a nice opportunity for brainstorming. Vice Chair Porter would really like to see an access point from the Hannah Dustin Park and Ride area. Alternate Ex-Officio asked Central NH Regional Planning Commission their thoughts on incorporating that into the upcoming proposed King Street update. They think it could take years and it would require negotiations with several parties. Many residents mentioned they'd like to have a farmers' market. Chair Keegan said that's a topic that has been discussed previously. There are many other farmers' markets in the area, but there's a possibility for that in the future.

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.