

Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Bill Bevens- Vice Chair,
Rusty Colby. Josh Marshall

Members Absent: Tina Larochelle

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00pm.

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Julie Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Josh Marshall. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Chair Keegan said he investigated the \$750 that was added into the budget due to the money going to the roundabout, this was a donation. Mr. Bevens said the amount needs to be added in.
Motion made to accept the Financial Report for January 1, 2019 – January 14, 2020 with a question mark on landscaping by Julie Fournier and seconded by Bill Bevens. All in favor, none opposed.

Land Use Happenings:

New Business:

- Chair Keegan handed out an article on easements that were granted for Morrill Farm in Boscawen as well as Pearl & Son's Farm in Loudon.
- Chair Keegan said the Commission should think about projects to work on this coming year.
- Chair Keegan said some of the signs need to be replaced on the welcome signs. Mr. Marshall questioned if they should put up new signs due to them being stolen from the Franklin sign. Chair Keegan said he did find one blown off and would like to give it another try. Mr. Marshall received a question about adding different farms to the signs. Mr. Marshall said he had replied they were not playing favorites on where to buy the products. Ms. Fournier said the signs are just to promote what you can buy.

Old Business:

- Roundabout- Chair Keegan said he has sent out emails to people that have expressed interest in this project and will schedule a meeting later this month. Mr. Porter questioned if Blackwater Forest Nursery could get involved with this project. Mr. Porter said it would be great to support them. Chair Keegan said when he spoke with the State they suggested Blackwater Nursery as well and it would be good to keep the money in Town.

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Chair Keegan said he spoke with the Lieutenant who suggested parking at the Park and Ride when working at the Roundabout. Ms. Fournier said there was a landscaper that was going to donate mulch. Chair Keegan said he hasn't been able to touch base with him yet. Mr. Marshall said Poirier landscaping is very involved with the Town so they would be a good business to contact. Chair Keegan said he would like to speak to the Selectmen about having a water line connected to the pole box. Chair Keegan said there would be no safe way to carry water over or run a hose across the road. Ms. Fournier questioned if there was any electricity. Chair Keegan said there is not.

- Community Garden- Chair Keegan said that the Community Garden needs to have an up to date form for this year. Ms. Fournier will work on this.
- Farm Law- Mr. Marshall spoke about the Crop Theft Bill RSA 539 :9. Mr. Marshall handed out information on this bill that helps protect Farmers from thefts. Mr. Marshall said changes were made in 2019 to strengthen this law. Mr. Marshall said it used to read whomever knowingly and now it reads recklessly cut, destroy, consume, tamper with, worry, vandalize. Consume was added and Christmas Tree. The minimum fine is \$500 or 10x the cost of the product whichever is higher. Mr. Marshall said he is hoping they can be part of the education part of this. Chair Keegan suggested hosting an informational session. Mr. Marshall said they could invite Law Enforcement Officers and possibly host at a Farm. Mr. Marshall also spoke about the Dairy Premium Program that was the Dairy Relief Fund which promotes NH milk. Mr. Marshall said that they are having trouble getting Hood on board. Mr. Marshall said people should ask stores to carry it to try to get it pushed.
- NH Gleens Program- Ms. Fournier said they could promote this in Merrimack County. It needs to be shown to people how it is helping.
- Farmers Market- Mr. Bevens questioned if the Agriculture Commission should support this. Ms. Fournier said there is a lack of farmers to go and there is one in Penacook. Chair Keegan said he believes this takes farmers out of the field. Mr. Marshall said you can leave it to business owners to choose.

Adjournment: Motion made at 7:56pm by Bill Bevens and seconded by Julie Fournier to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco