

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
January 10, 2019 7:00 pm

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, Rusty Colby, Josh Marshall, John Porter,  
2 Bill Bevans- Vice Chair

3 Members Absent: Tina Larochelle, Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio

4 Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler & Danielle Bosco

5 

---

6 Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm with a quorum.

7 Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

8 Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

9 **Chair Keegan asked if anyone had any changes to the previous minutes from 12/13/2018**  
10 **and several changes were made.**

11 **Motion made to accept the December minutes as amended by Ms. Fournier and seconded**  
12 **by Mr. Marshall All in favor, none opposed.**

13 **Financial Report:**

14 **Motion made to accept the budget for 2019 by Mr. Bevin's and seconded by Ms. Fournier**  
15 **All in favor, none opposed.**

16 **Motion made to accept the Financial Report for 2018 by Mr. Bevin's and seconded by Ms.**  
17 **Fournier All in favor, none opposed.**

18 **Land Use:** Mrs. Easler said there is nothing new to present this month. Chair Keegan  
19 questioned if Conservation had an update on Walker Pond. Mrs. Easler said none to report at this  
20 time.

21 **Farm Tax Relief Bill:** Mr. Marshall stated he spoke with Rob Johnson from NH Farm Bureau  
22 and received phone numbers for contacts at Department of Revenue Division, but no names. Mr.  
23 Marshall said if the Commission could talk DRA or even have them meet with the Commission  
24 to discuss Commercial versus Agricultural for the property tax relief it would be helpful. Mrs.  
25 Easler asked if she should ask Avitar to discuss this issue. Chairman Keegan stated it would be  
26 best to use the contact numbers from Mr. Marshall and deal with State authorities. Mr. Marshall  
27 explained that the question the Commission is asking is: Can Agricultural can have a distinct tax  
28 designation? Mrs. Easler will reach out for more information.

29  
30 **Legal Update:** Mrs. Easler provided legislation updates.

- 31 • Mrs. Easler stated that now Agrotourism conflicts must be ruled on by the Commissioner  
32 of Agriculture. Mr. Marshall clarified that this does not mean the municipalities cannot  
33 mandate public health and safety requirements such as bathrooms, lights, parking lots,  
34 etc.

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
January 10, 2019 7:00 pm

- 35       • Mrs. Easler said there is an update about the use of seeds and fertilizers. Mr. Marshall  
36 explained individual municipalities cannot now regulate the use of agricultural inputs  
37 such as GMO's or cow manure.  
38  
39

40 **Old Business:**

- 41       • **Welcome to Boscawen Signs**  
42           ○ Chairman Keegan spoke about having the seasonal signs done by prison  
43 industries. Ms. Fournier said she drove by some of the "Welcome to Boscawen"  
44 signs and they may need more than a coat of varnish. She questioned the size of  
45 those signs. Chairman Keegan said there is a sign at the Torrent Station that can  
46 be measured and examined. Mr. Porter noted the posts are attached to the back of  
47 each sign. Thus, the seasonal signs will hang from the bottom of the sign itself.  
48 Hence, the controlling dimension is the Welcome signs' length. Ms. Fournier  
49 volunteered to get pictures of the signs to determine what type of touch ups are  
50 needed. Ms. Fournier said she noticed there is not much room to hang many signs  
51 if the snow gets deep. Chairman Keegan responded that, generally, only one  
52 seasonal sign will be up at a given time. Mr. Marshall noted even at the peak time  
53 he did not see more than three signs up at once. Chairman Keegan questioned how  
54 big the lettering should be. Mr. Marshall said he believed they did six inch letters  
55 on the Community Garden sign which can be read easily. Mr. Marshall said  
56 Carter Hill Orchard has similar signs he can look into. Mr. Porter said the sign  
57 shop is a good resource. Mr. Marshall said he will work on this and agreed this  
58 would be a good resource.  
59

60 **Town Report:** Chairman Keegan provided copies of the 2017 Town Report and asked for input.  
61 Mr. Porter suggested getting the report down to one page. Mr. Marshall supported the idea while  
62 suggesting some information to include. Mr. Marshall will edit the submissions form Messrs.  
63 Abbe, Porter and Keegan. Mrs. Easler said the deadline for the report is January 18<sup>th</sup>.  
64

65 **NH Milk:** Chairman Keegan spoke about the Commissioner Jasper's going public with NH  
66 brand milk. Mr. Porter said that farmers were nervous but are getting behind the Commissioner.  
67 Mr. Porter said the Commissioner is getting over some hurdles and thinks this will be great for  
68 NH. Mr. Porter said people will be able to purchase NH brand milk for an additional .50 cents  
69 per gallon, with the major portion going to farmers. Mr. Porter said the Commissioner is working  
70 with the principals at the Hood plant in Concord. Mr. Porter stated a survey showed that people

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
January 10, 2019 7:00 pm

71 are willing to pay from .50 cents to 1.00 more for NH. Mr. Marshal said surveys are one thing  
72 but wasn't sure people would pay the extra money. At the end of the day, Mr. Marshall supports  
73 anything to help the dairy farmers. Mr. Marshall reported that at a recent meeting in the State  
74 House, a dairy farmer said he had received six calls in the last month asking if he would buy the  
75 callers' cows. Mr. Marshall said Vermont has lost more dairy farms than NH and Maine is in the  
76 same position.

77

78 Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Colby. All in favor, none opposed

79 The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

80

81 Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco