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Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Rusty Colby
Absent- Bill Bevans–Vice Chair, Kellee-Jo Easler- Planning & Community Development Director, Tina Larochelle
Others Present - Crystal Tuttle- Planning & Community Development Clerk & Hannah Gardner-Recording Secretary

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Chair Keegan read off the Covid-19 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads as follows: In light of the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chair has determined that an emergency exists and that accordingly, until further notice, (a) members of the board may attend all board meetings telephonically, without the physical presence of a quorum; and (b) members of the public who wish to participate in hearings may, on request, participate telephonically or submit comments in writing to be included in the record of the hearing.

Roll Call: completed and guests introduced.

Chair John Keegan stated that Josh Marshall resigned as a member today. Mr. Marshall has moved to Canterbury which is where he will reside. To serve on a Town board or commission, you must be a resident of Boscawen. Chair Keegan invited Mr. Marshall to attend any future meetings. He just can't vote. Chair Keegan will keep a line of communication open with Mr. Marshall for future endeavors and asked he do the same.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Porter requests one correction, line 26 remove the word “observer” and change to “Communicator”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 63 remove the word “strikethrough”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 64 remove the letter “a” so it reads “Crete’s”
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 66 remove the error letter “t”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 68 remove the phrase “Farm Link Program”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 73 remove the “ing” and change to “Market Bulletin”.

- 40 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 74 remove the word “strikethrough”.
- 41 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 77 insert a “,” after the word “draft”.
- 42 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, lines 80-81 change the font.
- 43 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 91 change to “expansions.” Start new
44 sentence with “If”.
- 45 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 99 remove the word “enterprises” and
46 change to “roles”.
- 47 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 111 should read as “is what’s not on the
48 agenda”.
- 49 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 114 remove the first “on” word.
- 50 • Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 126 remove the word “and”.

51 **John Porter motioned to approve the 01.14.21 minutes as amended. Motion seconded**
52 **by Julie Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.**

53 **Financial Report:**

54 Mr. Porter asked Chair Keegan why ‘garden plot fees’ deposits are not showing up on this
55 month’s report. He thought they were carried over from last year. Chair Keegan responded
56 the latest report doesn’t show the plot fees. To keep those fees on the AgComm balance
57 sheet, the Commission needs to have asked the Selectman by a date certain, to encumber
58 them for a specific amount to fund a specific Commission project in 2021. Not having done
59 so the funds went into the Town’s general fund on December 31st.

60 **John Porter motioned to accept the 02.11.21 financials as written. Motion seconded by**
61 **Rusty Colby. All in favor. None opposed.**

62 **2-Lot Subdivision 183D 16:**

- 63 • Ms. Crystal Tuttle stated that Riveredge Properties, LLC purchased the Agnes Marshall Trust
64 Land. The home that exists will remain as is. The building will be torn down eventually. There
65 is no date for the demo of the building. The green house will be preserved and moved to a
66 different location because it is the only glass green house in Town. The address of the
67 properties is 152 North Main St. Chair Keegan believes there are about 19 acres of land. Chair
68 Keegan stated the plan would be to develop the land, putting in a new town road. Ms. Tuttle
69 stated the ownership of the house hasn’t been talked about, but the house will remain where it
70 is. That may change in the future but as of now it isn’t. The land to be developed is mostly
71 scrub and forest land at this point. Mr. Porter asked about the concern of irrigation and water
72 supply for Mr. Berkley’s development. Chair Keegan stated Mr. Josh Marshall said there are
73 separate water hookups. In regard to the property of Josh Marshall’s dad, Keith, it will remain
74 as is. Chair Keegan asked about the house that Josh Marshall used to live in.

75 **Old Business:**

76 • Community Garden: The Garden Committee met on Monday, February 8th. Twelve
77 (12x12) plots and 5 sprinkler heads are being added this year. Eventually, as demand
78 dictates, up to 140 plots can be opened on the area currently cover cropped. The price
79 of plots will remain \$15. To simplify communications, instead of numerous contact
80 people, there will be one email monitored by a Town employee. Chair Keegan stated
81 the last time a thorough vetting of the paperwork was about 10 years ago. Chair
82 Keegan and Mr. Abbe are editing and redrafting the material to eliminate outdated
83 materials and redundancies. Their objective is to redraft the material before Town
84 Meeting Day. Historically, that is when applications to the Garden open. Ms. Fournier
85 stated they extended the season from April 1st to October 31st.

86

87 • Rail Trail Initiative: Mr. Porter stated that the Town is developing an Economic
88 Committee. He will be the AgComm representative. He has a strong interest in the
89 Rail Trail and wants to promote the Rail Trails economic benefits.

90

91 • Farm Link: Mr. Porter spoke about helping *Land for Good* publicizing their land link
92 program which connects farmers to new land (vice versa). Today, Mr. Porter received
93 an edited copy of his original letter plus a suggested ad that can go into the Market
94 Bulletin. He thinks the Commissioner will do an initial article and then, possibly,
95 place a small ad (at least once a month) to publicize *Land for Good's* services. *Land*
96 *for Good* staff modified the wording of their services contained in Mr. Porter's draft,
97 staffing being their principal focus. Mr. Porter will be speaking with the
98 Commissioner about writing the lead article and posting the ad regularly. He
99 anticipates by AgComm's next meeting the Market Bulletin should have something
100 going.

101

102 • **Julie Fournier motioned to allow John Porter to move forward with speaking**
103 **with the Commissioner. Seconded by Rusty Colby. All in favor. None opposed.**

104

105 **New Business:**

106 • Invite to Sweet Beet Speaker: Chair Keegan stated that the Commission previously talked
107 about inviting a representative from Sweet Beet in Bradford, NH. They would talk about
108 their operations and how their working with the community in various ways to support
109 nutrition and agriculture. Chair Keegan asked if this still interests the Commission
110 members. Ms. Fournier is concerned about how COVID has affected their work. Chair
111 Keegan will contact their Recording Secretary, Hannah Gardner about inviting a speaker
112 for our next meeting.

113

114 • Appointments for 2021: The AgCom Committee has a vacancy with a possible

115 chance of Mr. Porter's brother-in-law stepping in as a member. Several
116 Commissioners terms end in April. Ms. Fournier made the decision to step off of the
117 Commission in order to focus more of her time on the Historical Society because
118 they are struggling. Another factor is her job at Huckleberry Oil and Propane
119 Company. She will be learning a new position and working long hours. She is
120 willing to volunteer when she can. Mr. Rusty Colby is thinking about his decision
121 but is leaning towards resigning. Chair Keegan asked that he continue until the end
122 of his term, which he agreed to. Mr. Porter stated he will remain on the Commission.

123

- 124 • Mr. Porter stated the kick-off of the Virtual NH Farm and Forest Exposition will begin
125 tomorrow (February 12th). There will be keynote speakers during the day and then they
126 will kick off the series of videos that will be offered monthly through the year. There
127 will be a virtual trade show of just business cards to give publicity to their Agriculture
128 businesses. The Steering Committee is struggling to make it work because of COVID
129 and their limited budget. Mr. Porter wants to encourage supporting and promoting the
130 event.

131

132 **Next Meeting:**

- 133 • Thursday, March 11th, 2021 at 7 P.M.

134

135 **Adjournment:**

- 136 • Motion to adjourn by Mr. Porter; seconded by Mr. Colby. All in favor. None opposed.

137 *Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner*