

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 8th, 2021, at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans, Julie Fournier, John Porter- vice Chair, Roger Sanborn, Ralph Odell, Gary Tillman & Lorrie Carey ex officio

Absent- Tina Larochelle

Others Present - Crystal Tuttle- Planning & Community Development Clerk

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

Roll Call: completed and no guests

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Porter requests one correction, remove COVID notice.

Mr. Porter requests one correction, line 82, and change carburetor to carburetor.

Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 99-100, take out “new to commission”, Ms. Julie Fournier isn’t new.

Mr. Porter requests one correction, line 121 & 125, remove “alternate” referring to Mr. Ralph Odell as agricultural commissioner.

Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 129 & 130, remove Mr. Roger Sanborn’s “bailed hay” analogy.

Mr. Sanborn motioned to accept the 06.10.21 meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Mr. Sanborn motioned to accept the 07.08.21 financials as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

- **Rack Cards:** Chair Keegan said Josh Marshall is going to put all the information he has onto a flash drive and give it to the Town so they can access these data. Chair Keegan asked what they will use for a picture. Mr. Porter suggested Tom G’s chicken operation on Rt. 4. Mr. Sanborn recalled Richardson’s Ice Cream had been suggested. Mr. Sanborn will reach out to them. Chair Keegan, responding to a question concerning a printer, reported Mr. Marshall had used the town’s printer based on Mr. Alan Hardy’s advice. Chair Keegan suggested doing the same for this printing the next question concerned the number of cards to print. Ms. Tuttle will research how many were printed for the first

- 36 edition. Ms. Fournier reported Susan Maze, owner of Black Forest Nursery, would like to
 37 stay on the rack cards with no changes. Ms. Fournier questioned if Ms. Tina Larochelle,
 38 owner of Apple Ridge, wanted to be listed. Chair Keegan will follow-up. There is a new
 39 horse farm on Corn Hill Road. Chair Keegan talked with the owner, Stacia Langille. She
 40 would like to be added to the rack card. Chair Keegan also spoke with Joe Pustizzi who is
 41 reviewing his information and will return the updates soon. In response to an observation
 42 by Mr. Porter, Chair Keegan stated he would like have the farm information in hand by
 43 the end of July and publish soon thereafter Mr. Porter asked how many were sent out last
 44 time. Chair Keegan said Josh Marshall should have this information on the flash drive.
 45 Mr. Porter asked if we still have the racks. Chair Keegan said some racks were stored at
 46 the Town office. Ms. Fournier contacted Dee Blake at the News Vine and the notice will
 47 be in the July News It will be a statement that the Agricultural Commission is updating
 48 rack cards and if any businesses would like to be involved, they can call or visit the
 49 Commissioners or contact the Town Office. Ms. Carey mentioned there is going to be a
 50 micro-brewery. Ms. Carey suggested designing the rack cards as a tri fold and, on the
 51 back section include a map marking each of the farm business locations.
- 52 • **Composting:** PCD Clerk Tuttle spoke with Public Works Director Hollins. PWD Hollins
 53 about the signage outside of the transfer station. PWD. Hollins said they can place signs
 54 about composting. Ms. Fournier can design the signage, but she does have other current
 55 commitments. She isn't sure when she would be able to complete these signs. Mr. Porter
 56 suggested having the prison sign shop design and make them. Mr. Porter asked what the
 57 signage would read. Key words would include "home and "compost". Mr. Sanborn
 58 suggested, "Try composting your biodegradables". Mr. Tillman suggested, "Home
 59 composting is the way to go". Ms. Carey suggested "compost at home, get great dirt".
 60 Mr. Porter said they need to specify "food compost". Ms. Carey suggested "got compost?
 61 Do it at home." She also suggested making a "recipe for compost" where you describe
 62 the different types of composting such as 1. Food & 2. Leaves etc. Chair Keegan
 63 suggested also having handouts to pass out at the treasure house and other locations. PCD
 64 Clerk Tuttle suggested making flyers. She also suggested having a compost contest. Ms.
 65 Fournier wants to make some miniature examples of composters. There would have to be
 66 a 'write up' explaining what can be composted. These could be used as materials for
 67 lectures and educating the public. PCD Clerk Tuttle will ask Bonnie John if Ms.
 68 Fournier's composting examples can display in the library. Ms. Carey recalled that the
 69 Old Home Day Committee used to sell composting bins for \$5. Mr. Odell will contact
 70 the Loudon Elementary school to find out more details on their composting education.
 71 PCD Clerk Tuttle contacted Ms. Barbara Randall and she gave her a contact. PCD Clerk
 72 will send contact information out to the Commissioner ASAPMs. Caray noted the
 73 Boscawen Elementary has an extensive agriculture education component.
 - 74 • **Land for Good:** Mr. Porter said Commissioner Jasper is back on board on putting the
 75 *Land for Good* notice back in the Market Bulletin... Chair Keegan would like to hear
 76 from them if there has been any contact made through the program. Mr. Porter said, being
 77 connected with Cooperative Extension Service, he does receive some feedback.

- 78 • **Economic Development Committee:** Mr. Porter said the committee is visiting
 79 businesses as they are doing their meetings. Mr. Porter has asked that if then Committee
 80 does install kiosks for rack cards, to have a spot for agricultural Commission cards on the
 81 kiosk.
- 82 • **Community Garden:** Ms. Fournier stopped by the community garden last night. She is
 83 very impressed with the amount of variety in vegetable they have this year. She also liked
 84 the techniques they are using such as trellising and mulching. The tool kiosk that Mr.
 85 Abbe put together looks wonderful. It has any tools needed and access to wheelbarrows.
 86 The blueberries and herb garden are continuing to grow and are great resources. Ms.
 87 Fournier wasn't able to find the NH Gleans sign. Hillary Bailey is the program leader.
 88 The produce goes into the local food systems. Ms. Fournier couldn't identify the plots
 89 and suggested having some type of sign stating where the NH Gleans plots are located. It
 90 is important to know it is there and that people can donate their extra produce. An almost
 91 new riding mower was donated to the Community Garden. The only anticipated cost is a
 92 new carburetor. The donor doesn't mind being recognized and would also like a tax write
 93 off from the Town. Mr. Abbe thought it would be about a \$2,000 value. The gardens are
 94 at 90% use of available plots. Four plots are yet to be planted. The pollinator display is a
 95 mess. The sign looks good, but the actual project needs work. Chair Keegan observed
 96 garden leaders usually do an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) presentation. Chair
 97 Keegan suggested talking to Ann Lacroix about setting up a presentation. Perhaps they
 98 could integrate it with repairing the pollinator hotel. Ms. Fournier will ask Mr. Abbe to
 99 reach out to Ann Lacroix. Ms. Fournier also took photos of the garden and will send them
 100 to PCD Clerk Tuttle.

101 **New Business:**

- 102 • **Land Use Happenings:** Planning & Community Development Clerk Crystal Tuttle said
 103 the application for a 16-lot subdivision for Map 183D, Lot 16 was completed and
 104 approved with conditions. It is located on N Main St, behind 152. PCD Clerk Tuttle said
 105 the application for a gravel pit at Map 47, Lot 6, 243 Daniel Webster Highway was
 106 approved. The excavation would be limited to a little over 2 acres. Minor 2 lot
 107 subdivision happened at Map 49, Lot 6, and 451 Daniel Webster Highway. There is an
 108 existing house on the property, and they divided it into two lots so one lot can be another
 109 small gravel pit. PCD Clerk Tuttle brought the tax map for the Committee to observe how
 110 big the parcels are.
- 111 • Chair Keegan asked the Committee to use the action item sheet located in their folders to
 112 note their tasks for the coming month to stay on top of responsibilities.
- 113 • Chair Keegan saw in the paper today a headline that read, "Federal Repair Bill Made in
 114 NH". This is the right to repair machinery. Chair Keegan said several years ago there was
 115 an issue that raised with car dealerships and agricultural increment distributors. This
 116 piece in the paper was talking about the ability of owners of any kind of machinery, being
 117 able to access the parts, related information, etc. Instead of trashing the malfunctioning
 118 product. Chair Keegan called Rob Johnson at NH Farm Bureau to get a sense of where
 119 the bill was in the legislature. A State Representative from the Hopkinton area, Dave

120 Luneau, independent of the federal legislative initiative was trying to pass a bill that
121 would allow homeowners have the ability to secure parts and information to repair their
122 appliances. The bill was deemed Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL), and not passed. Chair
123 Keegan is going to pursue the issue with the Farm Bureau to get a sense of how it would
124 work for farmers. Chair Keegan said some farmers he has talked to said it is very expense
125 and time consuming to fix machinery. Chair Keegan said Mr. Luneau is one legislator
126 who has an interest and may be an ally.

127 **Next Meeting:**

128 Thursday, August 12th, 2021 @ 7pm.

129 **Adjournment:**

130 Motion to adjourn by Mr. Sanborn; Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

131 *Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner*

DRAFT