

Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Rusty Colby
2 Absent- Kellee-Jo Easler- Planning & Community Development Director, Bill Bevans- Vice
3 Chair, Josh Marshall, Tina Larochelle
4 Others Present: Kearsten O’Brien- Planning & Community Development Assistant / Recording
5 Secretary

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

8
9 Chair Keegan read off the Covid-10 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads
10 as follows: In light of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and
11 to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting is being recorded and any votes will be roll
12 call votes.

13
14 Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

15
16 **Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

- 17 • Julie Fournier requested to change line 97 to Dr. Jay Brent Roy to Dr. Jay Brent Loy.

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

20 **Financial Report:**

21 **Rusty Colby motioned to accept the financial report as written. Motion seconded by Ms.**
22 **Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.**

23 **Old Business:**

- 24 • Ken Marshall Memorial Garden: Ms. Fournier spoke about the Community Garden
25 having a harvest supper for the gardeners. She spoke with Jeff Abbe who headed the
26 supper. Eleven gardeners attended and had a great time even with the rain. Ms. Fournier
27 contacted Stacy Luke at the Merrimack County Conservation District to learn the
28 poundage the Boscawen Community Garden has contributed to the food pantry and
29 present the idea of the garden kiosks. Ms. Luke has not responded. She and Mr. Abbe
30 will be sending an end of season letter to the gardeners soon. Chair Keegan asked if she
31 had spoken with Mr. Abbe about changes at the garden next year. She has not but will do
32 so soon.
- 33 • Welcome to Boscawen Signs: Chair Keegan brought up the issue of the wind removing
34 the signs underneath the Welcome to Boscawen Signs from their hangers. He had sent
35 out an email to the Agricultural Commission Members asking each to take a sign to
36 monitor. Mr. Porter will maintain the Route 3 sign, and Chair Keegan will maintain the

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37 Penacook line sign. Ms. Fournier will maintain the Route 4 sign. Ms. Fournier reported
38 that Mr. Abbe has been taking care of the traffic circle sign. That leaves the Long St sign.
39 The Rabbit Road sign has not had seasonal signs. Mr. Porter suggested using hooks that
40 lock rather than twisting the wire to keep them in place. That way the signs will not blow
41 off in the wind. Ms. Fournier volunteered to check Rocky's Hardware to see if they have
42 any hooks available.

43 **New Business:**

- 44 • **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI):** Chair Keegan reported that he joined the Planning
45 Board meeting on September 1, 2020. The Conservation Commission will be presenting
46 recommendations from the NRI at a Planning Board Hearing for discussion and feedback
47 about areas of mutual interest which are important and should be highlighted. Chair
48 Keegan would like the Agricultural Commission Members to review the NRI and provide
49 comments and/or recommendations to him to share as part of the record for the hearing.
50 Noting especially, those that might have either a negative or positive impact on
51 agricultural in Boscawen. He also encouraged Agricultural Commissioners to attend the
52 hearing.
- 53 • **New Hampshire Farm Bureau:** Chair Keegan informed/reminded Commissioners the
54 Agricultural Commission is a New Hampshire Farm Bureau member. Commissioners can
55 use the member discounts outlined in their brochure. Ms. O'Brien will have the
56 membership information and ID card in the town office. Please contact her to secure the
57 ID card or check the range of member discounts and services.
- 58 • **Kearsarge Food Hub aka Sweet Beet:** Chair Keegan noted the Hub is located in Bradford.
59 Several years ago the Agricultural Commission was trying to establish a commercial
60 kitchen for farmers in town or a surrounding community. Many of the current Hub
61 leaders, were recent college graduates interested in farming and participated in a study
62 organized by this Commission. Chair Keegan suggested speaking with the Sweet Beet
63 leaders to educate ourselves and local farmers about their successes and ongoing
64 challenges. Mr. Porter thinks it would be a great idea to invite them to an Agricultural
65 Commission meeting to get their insights. Ms. Fournier suggested waiting until the
66 growing season ends to extend an invitation. Mr. Porter suggested the winter months.
67 Chair Keegan agree to the winter meeting.

68 **Other Business:**

- 69 • **Potential New Member:** Mr. Porter stated that the Commission may have a potential new
70 member. His brother-in-law has bought a home in Boscawen and will be moving here as
71 soon as their current residence is sold. The gentleman is a UNH graduate and Cornell
72 alumnus, and worked with Mr. Porter at UNH. He has been a member of boards in other
73 towns where he resided. Currently he works part time at Osborne's Agway and is very

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74 connected to Agriculture. He would be a great asset to the Agricultural Commission if he
75 applies to become a member. Chair Keegan said that is great news.

76

- 77 • **Adjournment: Motion made by Ms. Fournier and seconded by Mr. Colby to**
78 **adjourn. Roll Call Vote was made. All in favor. None opposed.**

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80 **Next Meeting:**

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82 *October 15, 2020 @7:00PM*

83

84 *Respectfully submitted, Kearsten O'Brien*

DRAFT