

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
October 11, 2018 7:00 pm

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

3 Members Absent: Tina Larochelle, Josh Marshall

4 Others Present: Alan Hardy - Co-Administrator, Katie Phelps - Finance Administrator, Danielle  
5 Bosco – Recording Secretary

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6 Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a voting board.

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 09/13/2018 and the  
10 following changes were made: Line 15- into s trust fund (change s to a) Line 77- People the  
11 shared (remove the) Line 94- supports the idea of a join project (change to join to joint) Line 98-  
12 Chair Keegan he received (remove he) Line 109- of the garden (remove of) Line 110- Brode  
13 Fund (change to Bode).

14 **Motion made to accept the September minutes as amended by Mrs. Fournier and seconded**  
15 **by Mr. Porter. All in favor, none opposed.**

16 The Treasurers Report was reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Porter asked if something official  
17 had to be done with the donation money before the end of the year. Mr. Hardy said nothing can  
18 be done with the money until Town Meeting. Mrs. Phelps said the \$500 that came in was to be  
19 used now and an additional \$500 will come in to establish Jim Bode's Fund and instructions  
20 were left on how the money was to be used she believes for the bench.

21 Mr. Hardy said while the Board is talking about money the budget needs approval and he is  
22 wondering if they need any additional money. Mrs. Fournier said if they are going to be  
23 promoting a recognition type program will there be some money available or any costs to doing  
24 this. Chair Keegan said they have \$400 left in the budget this year still so he feels that is  
25 sufficient. Mr. Hardy said if they found they had a very good program that they could use the  
26 money they can pull from other accounts and adapt. Mr. Porter questioned what the actual yearly  
27 budget is. Chair Keegan said they have \$2000 a year. Mr. Bevin's said that amount should be  
28 sufficient.

29 **Motion made to accept the Budget for 2019 by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Colby. All**  
30 **in favor, none opposed.**

31 **Commissions Visit:** Chair Keegan asked if everyone saw the Commissioners article. Chair  
32 Keegan said the visit went very well. Chair Keegan said one thing the Commissioner didn't say  
33 was that the flock of chickens that Tom has is a different breed and due to organic specifications  
34 they need more outside space per bird and now have 6000 less birds this year. Mr. Colby said

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35 they have had a high mortality rate due to poor de-beaking. Chair Keegan said they don't look  
36 like they were de-beaked. Chair Keegan said this breed also lays white eggs once in awhile and  
37 he sells only brown eggs but is not penalized and still is reviewing full market value. Mr. Colby  
38 said he received some relief. Chair Keegan said the two barns in Monroe that Tom manages have  
39 not been as vigorous. Mr. Colby questioned if one of the farms was being shut down. Chair  
40 Keegan said one has been shut down. Chair Keegan said there is no odor of nitrogen at all and  
41 the doors and lights are computerized and hooked up to a calendar to change for daylight  
42 savings. Mr. Hardy asked if the difficulties at the other barns will result in an opportunity for  
43 Tom. Chair Keegan said the discussion was more about the current operation and the  
44 sophistication of the operation. Mr. Colby said they talked about the bio security and was  
45 surprised it wasn't more extensive, some operations require you to wear a suit. Chair Keegan  
46 said the manure was questioned by the Commissioner and Tom told him it's organic he is able to  
47 sell it. Chair Keegan said he spoke with the Commissioner about the bill they are working on and  
48 the training for municipal assessors. Chair Keegan said the Commissioner said he might have a  
49 road into the Municipal Association. Chair Keegan said they went to Richardson's Ice Cream  
50 after. Chair Keegan said they discussed the trade name. Mr. Porter said there is a Richardson's in  
51 Massachusetts that creates a lot of confusion. Mr. Colby said he had the same issue with the  
52 Outback Sugar Shack and met with the Attorney General but was told he needed a lawyer. Chair  
53 Keegan said the Commissioner said to go the legislative route and work with the Senator or  
54 Representative on a bill. Chair Keegan said Mr. Richardson showed them around and showed  
55 them how they make the base for the ice cream. Chair Keegan said he wrote the Commissioner a  
56 thank you letter for coming out. Chair Keegan said Andy Morrill joined them and they went to a  
57 piece of land on Water Street they own and went over his plans and how they are still  
58 considering moving his operation to that location. Mr. Colby said that's a million dollar  
59 operation that started out a 2 or 3 million dollar operation they scaled back. Mr. Colby said they  
60 visited the saw mill then Mr. Colby's operation at the sugar shack. Chair Keegan said he thinks  
61 the visit went well and they showed the Commissioner what Boscawen has to offer. Mrs.  
62 Fournier said he must have been amazed with the advances that have been made with the poultry  
63 farm. Mr. Colby said the Commissioner has visited the large poultry farm in Walpole so he is  
64 familiar with this. Chair Keegan said the Commissioner is very active in the poultry association.

65 **Farm Tax Relief Bill:** Mr. Porter said they have a working meeting Monday morning to go over  
66 some language on the new bill.

67 **Other Land Use:** Chair Keegan said he and Mr. Porter were approached about starting a  
68 Agricultural Commission. Mr. Porter said the meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> for the Horse Council  
69 and they are trying to educate that group and are looking for an educational presentation. Mr.  
70 Porter said he would attend and asked who would be able to attend. Mrs. Fournier said she would  
71 like to attend to learn more information for herself. Mr. Porter questioned how the Agricultural  
72 Commission started. Chair Keegan said it was started by Michelle Trembly whom was on the  
73 Conservation Commission. Mr. Hardy said Michelle had a hard time starting the Commission.

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74 Chair Keegan said Michelle asked for volunteers to start the Agricultural Commission and  
75 himself and a few others volunteered. Chair Keegan said a warrant article was presented at Town  
76 Meeting. Mr. Hardy said the first meeting started bumpy but the outcome was great. Mr. Porter  
77 said he believes some towns think they need large commercial farmers on it when they really  
78 only need people with Agricultural interests to be on the Board. Mr. Porter said they also need  
79 projects to be successful. Chair Keegan said the Board isn't regulatory Board it's and advisory  
80 Board.

81 **Community Garden:** Chair Keegan said Jeff sent out a notice that it's time to clean up plots.  
82 Chair Keegan said he believes the plan is to put down Rye but needs to talk to Jeff about when  
83 that will be done. Mr. Porter said it should be done by October 15 per NRCS recommendation.  
84 Chair Keegan asked Mr. Hardy if he heard from Linda about the grading. Mr. Hardy said she is  
85 on vacation but has sent the email. Chair Keegan told the Board he is talking about the Ken  
86 Marshall Memorial Garden being graded.

87 **New Business:** Mr. Hardy said that Cumby's will be closing for roughly 2 weeks to work on  
88 septic tanks that are under the parking lot on the left side. Mr. Hardy also said Kesavan's next to  
89 Alan's Restaurant will be cleaned out and the only thing left will be the house in the front. Mr.  
90 Hardy said the families have relocated, the owner of the barber shop school in Penacook is  
91 looking to buy the property. Mrs. Fournier asked how large the parcel is. Mr. Hardy said it's  
92 under an acre. Mr. Hardy said he worked on this property for a long time and the new health  
93 officer has handled this and they are ready to move forward. Mr. Hardy said new manufactured  
94 homes will be put in.

95 Mrs. Fournier wanted to talk about the giant pumpkin that won at the Deerfield Fair. Mr. Hardy  
96 asked who knew him so they could get a picture for the Town Report. Chair Keegan said he can.  
97 Mrs. Fournier asked if they could get a competition of giant pumpkins at the Community  
98 Garden. Chair Keegan said a lot goes into growing giant pumpkins and they can grow 50 pounds  
99 a day it wouldn't be something they could do or have room for in the Community Garden.

100 Chair Keegan said he was talking with Mr. Hardy about the upcoming elections with and  
101 realized the next time they meet the elections would have already taken place. Mr. Keegan said  
102 they should invite whoever emerges as Senator and State Representative to one of the meetings  
103 so they can discuss what they are working on with the legislative. The Board agreed that was a  
104 good idea. Mr. Hardy said they can open it up as a public meeting and invite people.

105 Chair Keegan said going back to the Commissioner's visit Andy discussed easements. The  
106 Commissioner told him to be sure the Easement was written in such a way they can do what they  
107 need to do with the piece. Chair Keegan said he recommended an Attorney named Amy Gonzilia  
108 that has written several of these easements. Mr. Hardy said Amy has worked with Theresa on  
109 several of these and is knowledgeable.

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111 Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Fournier and seconded by Mr. Bevans. All in favor, none  
112 opposed.

113 The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

114 Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco