

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT
Boscawen Municipal Complex
February 14, 2019 7:00 pm

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, Rusty Colby, John Porter, Tina
2 Larochele

3 Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio, Bill Bevins, Josh Marshall

4 Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Alan Hardy

5

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

7 Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

8 **Farm Tax Relief Bill:** Mrs. Easler said that she and Alan Hardy met with Mark Stetson and
9 Kerry Connors of Avitar Associates of New England on January 31st. Mrs. Easler said that there
10 are applications in the Commissions packets. Mrs. Easler said that in 2008 this legislation was
11 started in the Coos County. Mrs. Easler this could be voted on at town meeting. Mr. Hardy added
12 the first step is to pass the exemption and carve out an exemption that is strictly for agricultural.
13 Chair Keegan clarified this was only for new construction. Mr. Hardy confirmed this and is
14 aimed at new business. Chair Keegan questioned if any towns have gone through this process.
15 Mr. Hardy said he doesn't have the knowledge of any. Chair Keegan said this would possibly
16 have costs up front but overall could benefit the town. Mr. Hardy said the challenge is where this
17 development would take place; for example giving up Crete's field or Route 4. Chair Keegan
18 questioned if this was where businesses want to go. Mr. Hardy stated it depends on the type of
19 business. Mr. Colby suggested the Steinbeck property. Mr. Hardy said some of these buildings
20 will be coming down this spring. Chair Keegan spoke about the optimum use of agricultural land
21 in town. Mr. Hardy noted that part of Crete's Farm is zoned Industrial. Mr. Hardy said that this
22 property can maintain its agricultural use but if they stopped agricultural use it could pose a
23 problem. Mr. Porter said we may be opening more options than we are looking for and should
24 only proceed with the Agricultural portion. Mr. Porter said he does not feel giving an incentive
25 on Industrial land is good when it is so limited. Mr. Hardy said in some towns it makes sense to
26 have this incentive but not Boscawen. Mrs. Easler said that prior to a warrant article, details of
27 the incentive must be determined, such as, the length of time and so on. Mrs. Easler said that last
28 year a solar exemption warrant article did not pass because people did not fully understand, thus
29 the need for specificity. Mr. Hardy said in retail commercial you would see a benefit. Mr. Colby
30 said there is a difference between Agricultural and Commercial

31 **MOTION:** Mr. Porter made a motion to table the further discussion of pursuing RSA 72:80 but
32 maintain the philosophical approach of looking at ways to make Boscawen and the State
33 attractive for Agriculture. All were in favor.

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35 Mr. Porter said one way to keep this alive is to follow up with the idea of educating the
36 Municipality Association as well as working with the Farm Credit Assessor on clarifying single
37 use structures and equipment versus real estate.
38

39 **Capital Area Public Health Network:** Mrs. Easler said she was involved, as the Health Officer,
40 with completing a Shelter Training 101 with the Capital Area Public Health Network. They
41 created a template for other surrounding Towns to use for setting up emergency shelters. In June,
42 Mary Reed from CAPHN will be holding a workshop at the Emergency Management
43 Conference and would be interested in resources for Agricultural Animals. Mrs. Easler said that
44 the Agricultural Commission had discussed emergency procedures for large animals when they
45 were working on the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) a few years prior. Mary Reed is
46 looking to see if someone in our organization would like to speak at the workshop. Alan Hardy
47 has offered to assist. Mr. Hardy said at one point at the State level it was set up to house animals
48 at fairgrounds. Mrs. Easler thought there was also discussion of large animals being transported
49 to the horse farm on Water Street and small animals would go to Riverside Veterinary Hospital,
50 However, no MOU has been established for either option. Mrs. Easler questioned setting up a
51 clear written plan.
52

53 **Zoning Board of Adjustment:**

- 54 ▪ Mrs. Easler said an application for a private cemetery was just submitted.

55 **Planning Board:**

- 56 • Mrs. Easler said that the Clow Newcomb v. Town of Boscawen Decision from the
57 court case was received in favor of the Town.

58 **Natural Resources:**

- 59 • Mrs. Easler presented three maps to the Commission of the Towns' Natural
60 Resources Inventory (NRI). The NRI will identify species of animals and their
61 locations within Boscawen. Mrs. Easler said the NRI will be part of the Natural
62 Resource Chapter 8 in the Planning Board's Master Plan. It will be worked on by
63 Amanda Stone of UNH Coop Ext, John Abbe and Mark Kaplan from our
64 Conservation Commission. Mrs. Easler said she believes Mark will want to
65 discuss this further with the Commission at an upcoming meeting and will be in
66 touch with AgCom to schedule.
- 67 • Mrs. Easler said that the Conservation Commission will be keeping the money
68 from their timber cuts and will self-fund their 2019-2020 budget.
69

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70 **Welcome Signs:**

- 71 • Julie Fournier took pictures of all the signs to determine what issues the signs
72 have and also to determine size of the drop down signs. Ms. Fournier said when
73 going to get bids it would be good to show pictures. Ms. Fournier also suggested
74 replacing the sign that is in the worst shape with the sign that is in storage. Ms.
75 Fournier questioned if they raised the welcome sign to give more room for the
76 drop down signs under. Mr. Porter suggested just putting signs like blueberry
77 season to educate people.

78
79 **Community Garden:** Chair Keegan said there should not be any major changes in how the
80 Garden is currently operating.

81
82 Membership Renewal: Mrs. Easler said John Keegan and Tina Larochelle are up for renewal and
83 will have appointment papers for the Board of Selectmen to sign and then the Commission
84 members.

85
86 Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Larochelle and seconded by Mr. Colby. All in favor, none
87 opposed

88
89 The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

90
91 Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco