

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT
Boscawen Municipal Complex
April 11, 2019 7:00 pm

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

3 Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio, Bill Bevans-Vice Chair, Danielle Bosco,
4 Recording Secretary

5 Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Joe Pustizzi

6 _____
7 Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a quorum.

8 Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

9 Chair Keegan asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended- line 26-replace of with for,
10 line 100 strike it. Tina Larochelle made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by
11 Josh Marshall. All were in favor.

12
13 **Treasurers Report:** Josh Marshall made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Seconded by
14 Tina Larochelle. All were in favor.

15
16 **Election of Officers:** John Porter made a motion for John Keegan to be Chairman and Bill
17 Bevans to be Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All were in favor.

18
19 **Land Use Happenings:**
20 • Mrs. Easler said in 1999 Bernie Davis had a covenants put in place for a Lot Line
21 Adjustment. Mrs. Easler said the ZBA approved this and the next step is to go to
22 Planning Board.
23 • Mrs. Easler said Page Pond Trust had a lot line adjustment done that added 10 acres to
24 another trust property. By doing this, it separates the business from the lot.
25 • Mrs. Easler said Dollar General will start building on April 15th.
26 • Mrs. Easler received an email about goats living at 6 Baker Street. The property owner
27 had been granted a special exception for goats with the requirement that a Site Visit be
28 done within the year. The visit needs to be scheduled. The property owner in addition,
29 would now like to have 6 ducks which will require an amendment to their Special
30 Exception. The Committee discussed if ducks are permitted, their requirement for water
31 and proper housing. Chair Keegan asked that a Site Visit be scheduled. Mr. Marshall
32 noted that if the property owners meet the requirements and the animals are well cared for
33 they should be approved.

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- 34 • Mr. Porter reported he is still concerned about the Tannery falling apart. Mrs. Easler
35 responded she and Alan had checked the conditions. There is not money, to her
36 knowledge, in the budget to demo the building.
37

38
39 **Joe Pustizzi:** Mr. Pustizzi is proposing to create a multiple day learning experience for people
40 interested in farming. He will build a yurt, a tent like cabin to accommodate participants. Mr.
41 Colby questioned what kind of roof it would have. Mr. Pustizzi said it would have a hard roof
42 and canvas walls. He plans to start with one yurt and expand as needed. Mr. Pustizzi gave an
43 example of a Maine facility with a similar mission. His major concern is the potential impact of
44 removing some land from Current Use (CU). Mr. Marshall said he does not believe this would
45 fall under the CU exemption. Mr. Colby questioned if participants would be cooking their own
46 food and serving food. Mr. Pustizzi responded he would be providing the food. Mrs. Easler noted
47 it may be back land, and not high value. She said there would be a penalty for land removed
48 from CU but the remainder would stay in CU. For this reason she suggested Mr. Pustizzi plan
49 carefully for the amount and location for the land to be removed from CU. Mr. Marshall
50 suggested he review RSA 79:e for more CU information. Mr. Marshall went on to note that
51 Miles Smith Farm in Loudon offers a similar experience for non-farmers. Mr. Colby suggested
52 he check with his insurance company. Mr. Pustizzi said he wants this to be classified as
53 Agrotourism. Mr. Marshall said that if the Town were to contest this, it would be appealed to the
54 Commissioner of Agriculture on the town's dime, based on a recent change in the law.
55

56 **Welcome Signs:** Mr. Marshall handed out drafts from the prison sign shop. Mr. Marshall
57 believes the Commission wants something different then the purposed signs. He noted coloring
58 of the signs and the lettering, sign size and the lack of a 'blueberry' sign are the major
59 differences. Mr. Colby suggested adding 'vegetables' to the list of signs while Mrs. Larochelle
60 thought the 2.5 inch font was too small. Discussion followed. Chair Keegan asked Mr. Marshall
61 to discuss the sign size and color, font size and design as well as costs with the prison sign shop.
62 Mr. Colby said black signs versus colored signs may be a significant price difference. Chair
63 Keegan said the Commission is planning to spend 20-30 dollars per sign. Chair Keegan asked
64 Mr. Marshall to send Commission Members the feedback and prices from the sign shop.
65 Members will then send their preferences to Mr. Keegan. Mr. Porter said he has the original stain
66 color and is waiting for nicer weather to touch up the signs with primer.
67

68 **Community Garden:** Chair Keegan said there are 40 of 60 plots that are now taken. Chair
69 Keegan said information is up at Fox Hardware, Penacook Pharmacy, The Hair Clip, Kapellis,
AGCOM DM 4.11.19

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70 Kays Place Coffee Shop, The Barn Store, Franklin Savings Bank, Town Office, Town Website
71 and the Transfer Station. Chair Keegan said he thinks the new signs can be kept at the Garden
72 Shed.

73

74 **Tax Assessor Education:** Chair Keegan asked where this stood currently. Mrs. Easler thinks she
75 has sent the information but will check and, if not, send it as soon as possible. The Conference is
76 in November. Chair Keegan will contact Farm Credit East.

77

78 **Traffic Circle for Exit 17:** Chair Keegan spoke with the Selectmen about the upkeep of the
79 Traffic Circle. The Town is working with the DOT on an agreement to enable a group of
80 volunteers to take care of this area. Chair Keegan suggested to the Selectmen using perennials
81 instead of annuals at the circle.

82

83 **Commission Information:** Chair Keegan presented the Commissioners with information
84 regarding Bylaws, RSA's and Rules of Procedure. The Bylaws and Procedural Rules were
85 adopted when the Commission formed and proved their utility during the controversy over the
86 music school. Chair Keegan said that he just wanted the Commissioners to have this
87 information. Chair Keegan provided most of this same information to the Colby Sawyer student
88 that visited last month.

89

90 **Motion to adjourn** made by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor, none
91 opposed

92

93 The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

94

95 Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco