

Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans- Vice Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter,
2 Rusty Colby. Josh Marshall, Tina Larochelle

3 Absent- Kellee-Jo Easler- Planning & Community Development Director

4 Others Present: Danielle Bosco- Recording Secretary, Kearsten O'Brien- Planning &
5 Community Development Assistant

6
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 • John Porter said in the minutes it mentions the Exit 17 circle and since they are building a
18 roundabout near the new Market Basket the two may get confused. Chair Keegan asked
19 his recommendation. Mr. Porter said we should call it the Boscawen roundabout in the
20 future.

21 **Julie Fournier motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Tina**
22 **Larochelle. All in favor, approved as written. None opposed.**

23 **Financial Report:**

24 **Julie Fournier motioned to accept the financial report as written. Seconded by Tina**
25 **Larochelle. All in favor. None opposed.**

26 **Land Use Happenings:**

27 Kearsten O'Brien reported on September 1st at 6:30pm there will be a Public Meeting for the
28 Land Use Regulations that will replace Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations. Kearsten will
29 send the link for the virtual meeting to anyone wanting to attend. The link will be on the town's
30 website under Planning Board Agenda.

31

32 **Old Business:**

- 33 • Ken Marshall Memorial Garden: Ms. Fournier spoke about the Community Garden and
34 presented pictures. All but one plot is being used and people have been respectful of the
35 water resource as well as social distancing. Anne Lacroix, a Master Gardener, usually does
36 a presentation on Integrated Pest Management. However, in light of current
37 circumstances. Ms. Fournier emailed all gardeners a copy of her material she also did

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38 interviews with three gardeners that were very informative. During the interviews all
39 expressed how fortunate they are to be a part of this gardening community. Ms. Fournier
40 also made a poster with photographs of gardeners and their crops. She would like to use
41 the poster to promote the garden, and suggested posting it on the town website, among
42 other places. Ms. Fournier had distributed an article about a kiosk used by another
43 community garden where extra produce is collected for distribution to food pantries. She
44 recommended reaching out to the Boy/Girl Scouts for help with the construction of the
45 kiosk. She has spoken with Jeff Abbe who has concerns with the lack of shade in the
46 area. An idea he offered was building a lean-to attached to the shed. Mr. Porter asked if
47 there is electricity for a fridge. Chair Keegan said there is not. Mr. Marshall said a cooler
48 may be easy to have available but not sure if it is needed. Mr. Colby asked if there is a
49 problem with the current distribution process. Ms. Fournier said she has spoken with
50 Hillary Bailey in regards to the NH Gleans program, it is going well. Gardeners have
51 been taking extra produce right to the food pantry. Chair Keegan said the Commission
52 will evaluate how the Gleans Program went in the fall. Tina Larochelle suggested
53 gardeners take produce directly to the Boscawen Food Pantry.

- 54 • Welcome to Boscawen Signs: Mr. Porter said the Penacook sign needed a lot of priming.
55 The Salisbury sign had damage to the lettering which he and his wife fixed. The Franklin
56 sign had priming done last year. It only needed a touch up. Rabbit road needed very little
57 touch up. Water Street was in great condition and needed no touchup. The circle sign had
58 touchup last year. Mr. Porter asked that a commissioner ‘adopt’ the sign and do the need
59 a touchup. Chair Keegan said the Salisbury sign was knocked down this past winter by a
60 plow. The area around each sign was bush wacked. This will need to be done each year.
61 Mr. Porter pointed out the sign posts need another coat of paint either this year or next.
- 62 • COVID-19 Relief: Mr. Marshall reported the Department of Agriculture, Markets &
63 Food has extended and expanded the coverage being offered. Details are available in the
64 August 12th Weekly Market Bulletin. Chair Keegan said maple producers are now
65 eligible for funding.
- 66 • Farmland under threat in NH: Chair Keegan said he and Mr. Porter attended a Webinar
67 by the American Farmland Trust presenting data specific to New Hampshire. A major
68 takeaway was, in addition to the outright purchase and conversion of farmland to
69 development, housing development projects with large lots for individual homes lead to
70 development on surrounding properties. Mr. Porter said after hearing the concerns he
71 wished New Hampshire had some type of farm link program to help match people
72 interested in farming with suitable agricultural land. Chair Keegan suggested something
73 concrete the Commission could do is to express our concern in a public statement. Mr.
74 Porter sees the need for some type of non-profit. Mr. Marshall observed the driving
75 problem is the profit owners, including farmers, can realize selling readily developable
76 land. Mr. Porter reported he had worked on a ‘farm link’ project in the past but had not
77 been able to continue. Chair Keegan offered to contact Five Rivers to seek insight and

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78 advice. Mr. Porter will review his files and send the Chair relevant materials. The Chair
79 will then draft a letter for review at the next Commission meeting.

80 • Boscawen Round a-bout update:

81 Chair Keegan said he met with the Select Board earlier this evening. At this point, the
82 project is on hold due to lack of funding and in need of a new plan. The Circle
83 Committee asked for funds from Franklin Savings Bank and Pete & Gerry's totaling
84 \$20,000 and received only \$2,500. Pete & Gerry's donated \$500 while FSB approved
85 \$2,000. Chair Keegan reported both organizations are focused on COVID related issues.
86 Funds are shown in the Agriculture budget because the project was originally part of the
87 Ag Commission. However, the Select Board has now formed a separate, free standing
88 advisory Committee. Mr. Colby and Mr. Marshall stated the project has grown much
89 larger than intended. They do not agree with the current price tag.

90

91 **New Business:**

- 92 • Local Food Guide: Ms. Larochelle explained the Local Food Guide is published annually
93 by Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD). These list food producers in
94 Merrimack County. Ms. Larochelle has reached out to MCCD for more copied as well as
95 information on how to broaden distribution to county residents. Kearsten O'Brien told
96 her the guide will be posted on the Town Website.
- 97 • Mr. Marshall said Dr. Jay Brent Roy recently passed away. He was a professor at UNH
98 and was awarded the Agricultural Adventurer Award before passing.

99

100 **Adjournment: Motion made by Tina Larochelle and seconded by Rusty Colby to adjourn.**
101 **Roll Call Vote was made. All in favor. None opposed.**

102

103 **Adjournment at 7:55 pm**

104

105 **Next Meeting:**

106

107 *September 10, 2020 @7:00PM*

108

109 *Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco*