

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Rusty Colby

Absent- Bill Bevans–Vice Chair, Kellee-Jo Easler- Planning & Community Development Director, Tina Larochelle

Others Present - Crystal Tuttle- Planning & Community Development Clerk & Hannah Gardner-Recording Secretary

Chair John Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Chair Keegan read off the Covid-19 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads as follows: In light of the state of emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the chair has determined that an emergency exists and that accordingly, until further notice, (a) members of the board may attend all board meetings telephonically, without the physical presence of a quorum; and (b) members of the public who wish to participate in hearings may, on request, participate telephonically or submit comments in writing to be included in the record of the hearing.

Roll Call: completed and guests introduced.

Chair John Keegan stated that Josh Marshall resigned as a member today. Mr. Marshall has moved to Canterbury which is where he will reside. To serve on a Town board or commission, you must be a resident of Boscawen. Chair Keegan invited Mr. Marshall to attend any future meetings. He just can't vote. Chair Keegan will keep a line of communication open with Mr. Marshall for future endeavors and asked he do the same.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Porter requests one correction, line 26 remove the word “observer” and change to “Communicator”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 63 remove the word “strikethrough”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 64 remove the letter “a” so it reads “Crete’s”
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 66 remove the error letter “t”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 68 remove the phrase “Farm Link Program”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 73 remove the “ing” and change to “Market Bulletin”.

- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 74 remove the word “strikethrough”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 77 insert a “,” after the word “draft”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, lines 80-81 change the font.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 91 change to “expansions.” Start new sentence with “If”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 99 remove the word “enterprises” and change to “roles”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 111 should read as “is what’s not on the agenda”.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 114 remove the first “on” word.
- Chair Keegan requests one correction, line 126 remove the word “and”.

John Porter motioned to approve the 01.14.21 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Julie Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Mr. Porter asked Chair Keegan why ‘garden plot fees’ deposits are not showing up on this month’s report. He thought they were carried over from last year. Chair Keegan responded the latest report doesn’t show the plot fees. To keep those fees on the AgComm balance sheet, the Commission needs to have asked the Selectman by a date certain, to encumber them for a specific amount to fund a specific Commission project in 2021. Not having done so the funds went into the Town’s general fund on December 31st.

John Porter motioned to accept the 02.11.21 financials as written. Motion seconded by Rusty Colby. All in favor. None opposed.

2-Lot Subdivision 183D 16:

- Ms. Crystal Tuttle stated that Riveredge Properties, LLC purchased the Agnes Marshall Trust Land. The home that exists will remain as is. The building will be torn down eventually. There is no date for the demo of the building. The green house will be preserved and moved to a different location because it is the only glass green house in Town. The address of the properties is 152 North Main St. Chair Keegan believes there are about 19 acres of land. Chair Keegan stated the plan would be to develop the land, putting in a new town road. Ms. Tuttle stated the ownership of the house hasn’t been talked about, but the house will remain where it is. That may change in the future but as of now it isn’t. The land to be developed is mostly scrub and forest land at this point. Mr. Porter asked about the concern of irrigation and water supply for Mr. Berkeley’s development. Chair Keegan stated Mr. Josh Marshall said there are separate water hookups. In regard to the property of Josh Marshall’s dad, Keith, it will remain as is. Chair Keegan asked about the house that Josh Marshall used to live in.

Old Business:

- Community Garden: The Garden Committee met on Monday, February 8th. Twelve (12x12) plots and 5 sprinkler heads are being added this year. Eventually, as demand dictates, up to 140 plots can be opened on the area currently cover cropped. The price of plots will remain \$15. To simplify communications, instead of numerous contact people, there will be one email monitored by a Town employee. Chair Keegan stated the last time a thorough vetting of the paperwork was about 10 years ago. Chair Keegan and Mr. Abbe are editing and redrafting the material to eliminate outdated materials and redundancies. Their objective is to redraft the material before Town Meeting Day. Historically, that is when applications to the Garden open. Ms. Fournier stated they extended the season from April 1st to October 31st.
- Rail Trail Initiative: Mr. Porter stated that the Town is developing an Economic Committee. He will be the AgComm representative. He has a strong interest in the Rail Trail and wants to promote the Rail Trails economic benefits.
- Farm Link: Mr. Porter spoke about helping *Land for Good* publicizing their land link program which connects farmers to new land (vice versa). Today, Mr. Porter received an edited copy of his original letter plus a suggested ad that can go into the Market Bulletin. He thinks the Commissioner will do an initial article and then, possibly, place a small ad (at least once a month) to publicize *Land for Good's* services. *Land for Good* staff modified the wording of their services contained in Mr. Porter's draft, staffing being their principal focus. Mr. Porter will be speaking with the Commissioner about writing the lead article and posting the ad regularly. He anticipates by AgComm's next meeting the Market Bulletin should have something going.
- **Julie Fournier motioned to allow John Porter to move forward with speaking with the Commissioner. Seconded by Rusty Colby. All in favor. None opposed.**

New Business:

- Invite to Sweet Beet Speaker: Chair Keegan stated that the Commission previously talked about inviting a representative from Sweet Beet in Bradford, NH. They would talk about their operations and how their working with the community in various ways to support nutrition and agriculture. Chair Keegan asked if this still interests the Commission members. Ms. Fournier is concerned about how COVID has affected their work. Chair Keegan will contact their Recording Secretary, Hanna Flanders about inviting a speaker for our next meeting.
- Appointments for 2021: The AgCom Committee has a vacancy with a possible

chance of Mr. Porter's brother-in-law stepping in as a member. Several Commissioners terms end in April. Ms. Fournier made the decision to step off of the Commission in order to focus more of her time on the Historical Society because they are struggling. Another factor is her job at Huckleberry Oil and Propane Company. She will be learning a new position and working long hours. She is willing to volunteer when she can. Mr. Rusty Colby is thinking about his decision but is leaning towards resigning. Chair Keegan asked that he continue until the end of his term, which he agreed to. Mr. Porter stated he will remain on the Commission.

- Mr. Porter stated the kick-off of the Virtual NH Farm and Forest Exposition will begin tomorrow (February 12th). There will be keynote speakers during the day and then they will kick off the series of videos that will be offered monthly through the year. There will be a virtual trade show of just business cards to give publicity to their Agriculture businesses. The Steering Committee is struggling to make it work because of COVID and their limited budget. Mr. Porter wants to encourage supporting and promoting the event.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, March 11th, 2021 at 7 P.M.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Porter; seconded by Mr. Colby. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner