

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, Rusty Colby, Josh Marshall, John Porter, Bill Bevans- Vice Chair

Members Absent: Tina Larochelle

Others Present: Danielle Bosco

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00pm.

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Fournier made the following corrections, line 34- add if, line 42- spell out date, line 49- change = to -, line 67- change Selectman to ZBA, line 88- remove +. **Rusty Colby made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Josh Marshall. All in favor. None opposed.**

Financial Report:

Motion made to accept the Financial Report for January 1-June 13, 2019 by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Ms. Fournier. All in favor, none opposed.

Land Use Happenings:

Chair Keegan said the ZBA would like a Site Visit Report from the Agricultural Commission to approve 6 additional ducks for a total of 12 at 6 Baker St. Mr. Marshall said he will coordinate a visit to the property.

Welcome Signs:

Mr. Porter has purchased the stain and primer and the bill came to \$61.90. He hopes to have the signs primed before next meeting. Mr. Marshall is still waiting for a quote from the Prison sign shop.

Chair Keegan reported the signs will be stored at the Community Garden storage shed. Mr. Marshall questioned what the process will be for changing the signs and who would be in charge. Chair Keegan suggested we could spread the work out among the Commission Members. The Commission Members volunteered as follows: Chair Keegan corn, John Porter blueberries, Rusty Colby Maple, Bill Bevan's apples, Josh Marshall pumpkins and Tina Larochelle tomatoes. The Members decided the signs would probably not be done in time to advertise strawberries this year. Ms. Fournier questioned why the extra welcome sign is not in use. Chair Keegan said they had planned on putting it on Water Street but had not found a good spot. Mr. Marshall questioned getting an extra set of hanging signs now for the extra sign for the welcome sign while he orders. The

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Commissioners concurred that it would be a good idea. Chair Keegan visit Water Street with Dean Hollins to identify the best location for the extra sign.

Community Garden:

Chair Keegan said there are now two additional plots available. He said every time he has driven by he sees someone working on their garden and most plots seem to be in use.

Tax Assessor Education:

Chair Keegan said they should know if this proposal has been accepted for the Municipal Conference by June 28.th

Scholarships:

Chair Keegan questioned if the Commission would like to offer scholarships or not. Many of the Commissioners thought this would be time consuming to set-up a process and then make selections because there are agricultural scholarships available that applicants can be directed to.

Traffic Circle:

Chair Keegan said the Town is working on an agreement with the State but no progress has been made to his knowledge. Ms. Fournier handed out information on NH traffic circles that are state maintained.

State Census:

Mr. Marshall said that this showed that the number of Dairy Farms have declined but the income has grown 210% since 2012 among other things.

New Business:

- Mr. Marshall said the NHPR broadcast a story about a Carsey Institute study that was incorrect. The information was there are only 4 farm stands and farmers markets in Northern New Hampshire. Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture have provide both NHPR and the Carsey Institute additional information.
- Mr. Porter said someone from Massachusetts is taking over Morrill's farm milking production. Another farm in Farmington was just recently bought as well.
- Mr. Marshall said Contocook Creamery just finished their bottling plant. Mr. Marshall said they are encouraging people to ask for their milk at supermarkets.
- Mr. Porter provided an update on Commissioner Jasper's New Hampshire milk initiative. The State proposal had some complications and will now be a New England initiative because processors cannot guarantee New Hampshire milk is not mixed with milk from other states.

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- Chair Keegan asked about a local farm tour event advertised recently. Mr. Marshall said that event was cancelled due to time constraints and scheduling conflicts. They are aiming to try in the Fall.
- Mr. Porter, reflecting on the farm census discussed earlier observed that New Hampshire farmers have always been resourceful. He brought referred to the changes in farming since the 1800's and brought up growing hops in light of all the micro-breweries in the state. Mr. Marshall said he looked into this. Startup cost are high and five years seems to be the minimum before there is any profit. He is growing pumpkins.
- **Adjournment: Motion made at 8:04pm by Rusty Colby and seconded by Bill Bevans to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.**

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco