

Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

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

Others Present: Kearsten O'Brien- Planning & Community Development Assistant / Recording Secretary

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

Chair Keegan read off the Covid-10 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 meeting is being recorded and any votes will be roll call votes.

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Julie Fournier requested to change line 97 Dr. Jay Brent Roy to Dr. Jay Brent Lloyd.

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

Financial Report:

Rusty Colby motioned to accept the financial report as written. Motion seconded by Ms. Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

- Ken Marshall Memorial Garden: Ms. Fournier spoke about the Community Garden having a harvest supper for the gardeners. Ms. Fournier spoke with Jeff Abbe whom headed the supper. Mr. Abbe said eleven gardeners attended and had a great time even with the rain. Ms. Fournier stated that she spoke with Stacy Luke at the Merrimack County Conservation District to see the poundage in which the Boscawen Community Garden has contributed, along with the idea of the garden kiosk. Ms. Fournier still has not heard back on either question. They will be creating the end of season garden letter to send out to the gardeners soon. Chair Keegan asked Ms. Fournier if she had spoken with Mr. Abbe on any ideas of changes for the garden regarding next year. Ms. Fournier said she has not but she will bring that up to him.
- Welcome to Boscawen Signs: Chair Keegan brought up the issue of the wind moving the signs underneath the Welcome to Boscawen Signs from their hangers. He sent out an email to the Agricultural Commission Members about each taking over a sign. Mr. Porter

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will maintain the sign in Franklin, and Chair Keegan will maintain the one on the Penacook line. They still have signs that need to be maintained on Long St and the sign on the Salisbury line. Ms. Fournier said she will maintain the one on the Salisbury line. She stated the Jeff Abbe has been taking care of the one by the traffic circle. Mr. Porter suggested getting hooks that lock, that way the signs do not move with the wind rather than twisting the wire to keep them in place. Ms. Fournier said she will go to Rocky's Hardware to see if they have any available.

New Business:

- **Natural Resource Inventory:** Chair Keegan stated that he joined the Planning Board meeting on September 1, 2020. The Conservation Commission will be suggesting ideas to the Planning Board about areas in which they feel are important and should have a focus. Chair Keegan would like the Agricultural Commission Members to review the NRI and submit recommendations to him in which may have a negative or positive impact on agricultural in Boscawen. He will then sit in on the next meeting or set up a time with the Planning Board to address the recommendations. He also stated that if one of the Agricultural Commission Members would like to attend the next Planning Board meeting they can express their thoughts about the NRI as well.
- **New Hampshire Farm Bureau:** Chair Keegan wanted to inform the Agricultural Commission Members that the Agricultural Commission is part of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau. If any of the Commissioners would like to do something, the Farm Bureau membership offers a discount for certain things and they are allowed to use it, just let Kearsten O'Brien know and she will give you the information.
- **Kearsarge Food Hub aka Sweet Beet:** Chair Keegan stated that this is a group out of Bradford NH. Years prior the Agricultural Commission was trying to establish a commercial kitchen for farmers. Chair Keegan suggested speaking with the Sweet Beet group for the educational purposes of the Agricultural Commission along with inviting Farmer's from town to have discussion with them. Mr. Porter thinks it would be a great idea to invite them to an Agricultural Commission meeting to get their insights. Ms. Fournier asked if they should wait until after the season is complete to invite them to a meeting. Mr. Porter suggested around winter time to invite the Sweet Beet group to a meeting. Chair Keegan said they will sit on the idea until the winter.

Other Business:

- **Potential New Member:** Mr. Porter stated that they may have a potential New Member Application coming in for the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Porter stated his brother-in-law just moved to Boscawen. The potential New Member went to UNH, Cornell, and worked with Mr. Porter at UNH. He has been on other boards in towns he lived in. Currently he works part time at Osborne's Agway and is very connected in Agriculture

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and would be a great asset to the Agricultural Commission if he applies to become a member. Chair Keegan said that is great news.

- **Adjournment: Motion made by Ms. Fournier and seconded by Mr. Colby to adjourn. Roll Call Vote was made. All in favor. None opposed.**

Next Meeting:

October 15, 2020 @7:00PM

Respectfully submitted, Kearsten O'Brien