

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Bill Bevans- Vice Chair,

Members Absent: Josh Marshall, Rusty Colby, Tina Larochelle

Others Present: Danielle Bosco- Recording Secretary, Kellee Jo Easler – Planning & Community Development Director, Hillary Bailey- Conservation District of Merrimack County Local Food Coordinator, Jeff Abbe, Community Garden Coordinator and Conservation Commissioner

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:20pm.

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Fournier made the following corrections, line 51- correct market, line 22- add out after gave.

Bill Bevans made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report:

Motion made to accept the Financial Report for January 1, 2019 - October 10, 2019 by Julie Fournier and seconded by Bill Bevans. All in favor, none opposed.

New Law concerning theft of agricultural products:

Chair Keegan said Mr. Marshall will update members at next month's meeting.

Land Use Happenings:

Mrs. Easler said the budget is the current focus of attention. Meanwhile, work on combining the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations continues.

Ken Marshall Memorial Garden:

Jeff Abbe reported most of the season end clean-up is complete and signs are put away. Hillary Bailey provided information about the NH Gleens Program. The program is mostly volunteer operated. The purpose of the program is to collect produce and deliver it to people in need, one example being the Backpack Program. Chair Keegan recommended she contact Sarah Gerlack at the Town Office to work with her as well as the Boscawen Elementary School. Commissioners discussed waving the fee of two Community Garden plots to the NH Gleens program.

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Motion made to waive the fee for two plots for the NH Gleens Program by Julie Fournier and seconded by John Porter. All in favor, none opposed.

Jeff Abbe discussed expanding the current garden to add at least 12 more plots. Jeff asked for permission to purchase a broad fork for \$82 and supplies such as water spigots for the 2020 expansion. The Commissioners agreed that he do so using current (2019) funds.

Motion made to add 12 more plots on the east end of the Community Garden next spring by Julie Fournier and seconded by John Porter. All in favor, none opposed.

Conservation Commission Discussion of Natural Resource Inventory:

Jeff Abbe, in his capacity as a Conservation Commissioner, introduced the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) currently underway as part of the update for Chapter 8 of the town's Master Plan Natural Resource Chapter. He would like to give the Commission a broader presentation on the NRI and have Agricultural Commission input on things like stone wall location and the sufficiency of agriculture related information in Chapter 8. Trail location, types of use(s) and their interconnectness was one item suggested for further discussion and research. Jeff mentioned that he, for example, would like to develop trails that tie into the Elementary School trails. He also provided Commissioners with the website to download the LiDAR information to begin mapping stone walls. Chair Keegan invited Mr. Abbe to attend the November 14 meeting of the Commission to continue this discussion.

2020-2021 Budget:

Mrs. Easler suggested the Commission review the proposed budget. The Commission has not exceeded the budget of \$2,000 but might consider reallocation of the \$2,000.

Motion made to put \$500 in administrative, \$600 in Garden and \$900 in Physical Improvements by John Porter and seconded by Julie Fournier. All in favor, none opposed.

Tax Assessor Education:

Chair Keegan said he and John Porter will be attending the training scheduled for the New Hampshire Municipal Associations Fall Conference on November 13 and 14.

Boscawen Historical Society Landscaping:

Julie Fournier, also a Historical Society member, had included this note for informational purposes only. There is no Agricultural Commission action needed.

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Town Report 2019:

Chair Keegan asked Commissioners to begin drafting sections of the report for discussion and review at the November meeting. Josh Marshall will edit; Jeff Abbe and Julie Fournier will report on the Community Garden; John Porter on the Municipal Conference tax assessment training; and John Keegan on highway signs and general matters.

Mrs. Easler will invite Sarah Gerlack to attend next month's meeting to discuss having a Farmers Market.

Adjournment:

Motion made at 8:23pm by Bill Bevans and seconded by Julie Fournier to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.

Next Meeting:

November 14, 2019

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco