

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
November 8, 2018 7:00 pm

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Tina Larochelle, Julie Fournier, Rusty Colby, John Porter, Kellee Jo Easler

Members Absent: Josh Marshall, Bill Bevans- Vice Chair

Others Present: Alan Hardy- Co- Administrator, Katherine Phelps- Finance Administrator

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:07pm with a voting Commission.

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Chair Keegan asked if anyone had any changes to the previous minutes from 10/11/2018 and the following changes were made: Ms. Fournier would like to change everywhere in the minutes where it says Mrs. to Ms. Chair Keegan said on line 8 the text needs to be bold to be consistent with the rest of the minutes. Chair Keegan said line 20 should have a period after used, capitalize she and change was to is. Chair Keegan said everywhere in the minutes Board should be changed to Commission. Chair Keegan said line 24 remove still. Line 33 put a comma after the word specifications. Mrs. Larochelle change the spelling on line 72 of Michelle Tremblay.

Motion made to accept the October minutes as amended by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mrs. Larochelle All in favor, none opposed.

Mrs. Easler stated the Treasurers Report was not available at this time and hopefully will send out via email tomorrow. Mrs. Easler questioned if Chair Keegan knew of any changes which he did not.

Chair Keegan read a letter from Mr. Hardy updating the Commission on the changes that have happened in the Town Office including Mr. Hardy taking on the title of Town Administrator. Mrs. Easler said that Mr. Hardy is excited to take over the role of sole Town Administrator.

Meeting Dates 2019/2020: Mrs. Easler presented a list of meeting dates for the Commission to review. Mr. Colby questioned what the deadline meant. Mrs. Easler said the office requests people to drop off items for the meeting approximately 10 days prior. No changes to the 2019-2020 Meeting Dates for the Commission.

Farm Tax Relief Bill: Mr. Porter stated he had a work session regarding the bill before bringing it before Legislature. Mr. Porter explained that currently there is a law that already covers what they have been working on, 72:81 property tax exemption. Mr. Porter brought up the Commission presenting this at Town Meeting and adopting it. Mrs. Easler explained the process which requires a petition warrant article with 25 signatures presented to DRA. Chair Keegan questioned the Town formulating the warrant article. Mrs. Easler said she will look into it. Mr. Porter said the work group was holding a meeting earlier today but cancelled due to this RSA being in place. Chair Keegan questioned if Mrs. Easler can look into this with the Town

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
November 8, 2018 7:00 pm

Administrator. Mrs. Easler will talk with Mr. Hardy. Mr. Colby questioned how much the exemption will be. Mr. Porter said he's not sure how the Town will feel about this because the tax exemption opens it up to everything that is built in Town and not just Agriculture. Mrs. Easler said it excludes the State Education and County taxes. Mr. Porter said they could restrict this to Agriculture only.

Motion made to move forward with the presenting the adoption of 72:81 tax exemption made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mrs. Larochelle All in favor, none opposed.

Land Use: Chair Keegan questioned if there were any big changes in Town. Mrs. Easler said land that was recently subdivided is selling quickly. Mr. Porter questioned if the construction in the Veteran's Cemetery has been started. Mrs. Easler said they are cutting trees.

Community Garden: Chair Keegan showed the Commission the new memorial at the Community Garden. Commission members were happy with the way it looked.

Commissioner's Visit: Chair Keegan shared copies of the thank you letters that were sent after the Commissioner's visit.

Old Business: Mr. Porter updated the Commission the meeting with the horse council is postponed until next year.

New Business:

- Chair Keegan shared a bio from Mrs. Larochelle on the accomplishments of her husband. Mrs. Larochelle said the bio shows what he accomplished in Town. Mr. Porter brought up property along Walker Pond being purchased by the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Easler will look into an update on this. Mr. Porter said this tract of land could be named after Mr. Larochelle. Mrs. Easler talked about cabins that were out along the pond. Mrs. Larochelle said there were 4 cabins that were moved and built onto.
- Elections-Chair Keegan brought up the recent elections stating no representatives from Boscawen won.
- Maple Sugar Producers Conference- Mr. Colby attended and spoke about how they are working on the labeling that is required to say added sugar which makes it sound like they are actually adding sugar to the product. Mr. Colby said they fought to have this off the label of honey and maple syrup. Mr. Colby said they held many different technical sessions. The Commission discussed maple sugaring changes and stricter regulations. Mr. Colby stated Gilmanton has the oldest continuous running sugar bush. Next year's maple sugar conference will be held in Minnesota.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Colby and seconded by Mrs. Larochelle. All in favor, none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco