

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Julie Fournier, John Porter, Bill Bevans- Vice Chair, Rusty Colby and Tina Larochelle

Members Absent: Josh Marshall

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 and Conservation Commission

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

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Julie Fournier made the following corrections, line 30, 36, 34- Gleans, Line 43-remove ?, Chair Keegan recommended on line 28 they address the section as Ken Marshall Memorial Garden. A discussion ensued concerning how best identify the Boscawen Community Garden while noting the dedication to Mr. Ken Marshall. The conclusion was to continue using Boscawen Community Garden in verbal and informal communication but use Boscawen Community Garden-Ken Marshall Memorial Garden in written and formal communication. **Tina Larochelle 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 – November 14, 2019 by Bill Bevans and seconded by Tina Larochelle. All in favor, none opposed.

Land Use Happenings:

- Agritourism Conference- Tina Larochelle attended a conference regarding Agritourism. Agritourism is permitted across the state but it does depend on each Town's Planning and Zoning regulations. The Conference was very informative. The state receives an estimated 4 million dollars annually from Agritourism. Mrs. Larochelle explained how she had had school kids come to their orchard. It showed these families what the orchard had to offer to both education and the economic viability of the farm.
- Report on New Hampshire Municipal Association Farm Property Tax Assessment Training. Mr. Porter said he and Chair Keegan attended the first day of the Conference which included this training. The Commission had submitted a request for the training to the Municipal Association. The training went well with approximately 35 attendees, the majority of whom appeared to be local tax assessors. Cara Penley, the presenter from Farm Credit East, engaged the audience well and elicited questions and comments that

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indicated interest in how best to assess agricultural structures. Chair Keegan found the training well-crafted and especially liked the fact that Ms. Penley encouraged attendees to contact her and Rob Johnson from Farm Bureau with their questions. She provided contact information and a written summary of the session's major points as well as additional relevant information from Rob Johnson.

Old Business:

- Welcome Signs-The Commission discussed taking down the hanging signs. Jeff Abbe volunteered to do so as soon as possible and store them in the garden shed. His offer was accepted.
- Boscawen Community Garden-Ken Marshall Memorial Garden- Mr. Abbe showed the Commissioners a map indicating which plots have already been requested for the 2020 growing season. He also identified two plots for the NH Gleans Program. Hillary Bailey concurred and agreed to mark the plots with NH Gleans signs as Ms. Fournier suggested. Mr. Abbe reported that garden cleanup is about 60% complete. Mr. Abbe has purchased the spigots and related materials for the 12 plot extension next year. The expansion is based on the high rate of use during the 2019 season, 58 of 60 plots.
- Farmers Market- Ms. Bailey will contact Sarah Gerlack prior to the December Agricultural Commission meeting.
- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) - Mr. Abbe said the Conservation Commission has formulated a brief, 10 minute, web-based survey which they would like as many people as possible to take. Mr. Abbe asked every Commissioner to take the survey as well as reach-out to 5 other residents, encouraging them to take it as well. Mrs. Easler suggested Conservation Commissioners take copies to the school for students to take home. Mr. Abbe said doing the survey online would be best because of tabulation considerations.

New Business:

- Roundabout- Chair Keegan said the Selectman have just signed an agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) concerning beautification and maintenance for the roundabout near Exit 17. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) has asked the Agricultural Commission to lead the process. Chair Keegan accepted the request at the October 31 BOS meeting. Tina Larochelle noted this is going to be a large project and the Commission cannot do all. Chair Keegan responded the several volunteers have already shown interest as well as a local landscaper. In addition, the memorial fund for Roger Woodbury will be dedicated to support this project. There is funding in the town budget that will be available. Mr. Porter said this spot will get a lot of attention as people come into town. Ms. Fournier offered help with this project. Mr. Abbe brought up safety concerns around access and parking.

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- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) - Chair Keegan said he has given all Committee members information. Please review it as there is news of national import.
- American Chestnut Restoration Project- Ms. Fournier said that there is an online locator form for anyone that has chestnuts on their property to complete. The group will come out to test your Chestnut trees.

Adjournment: Motion made at 8:12pm by Rusty Colby and seconded by Bill Bevans to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco