

**Town of Boscawen  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM**

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

Members Absent: Josh Marshall and Tina Larochelle

Others Present: Jared Reynolds-Cooperative Extension Service

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 line 13 corrections to the minutes. **Bill Bevans made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Rusty Colby. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Financial Report:**

Chair Keegan spoke with Mrs. Easler, confirming the expenditures from Mr. Abbe are included in this report. Mr. Bevans questioned why the landscaping is now in this budget. Chair Keegan said he believes this is because the Commission will be heading up this project. Mr. Bevans thinks it should come out of the Town beautification budget. Chair Keegan said it may be part of a donation. Mr. Porter proposed leaving a question mark on that portion. **Motion made to accept the Financial Report for January 1, 2019 – December 18, 2019 with a question about the landscaping. Julie Fournier made the motion to approve Mr. Porter’s proposal. Seconded by Bill Bevans. All in favor, none opposed.**

**Land Use Happenings:**

**Old Business:**

- Agritourism- Chair Keegan distributed the ‘*Country Folks*’ article titled, ‘Farmers Discuss Their Agritourism Successes’ to everyone.
- Town Report- All members reviewed the report. Ms. Fournier questioned if it should be clarified that five welcome signs are up and not just the four that have been replaced. Chair Keegan supported the change to five signs. Mr. Porter corrected several typos.
- Roundabout- Chair Keegan said the soil testing has come back which provides a baseline on soil conditions. Chair Keegan spoke with the Police Department about safety issues and to Dean Hollins about equipment and road signs. After the New Year he will convene a meeting. Ms. Fournier has spoken to many residents who are excited to see this project completed.

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**New Business:**

- LCHIP award to Morrill Farm- Chair Keegan said there is an item in the Conservation Commission minutes that says the money has been collected for this including the NRCS funding, the easement is moving along wonderfully.
- Commercial Kitchen Proposal- Chair Keegan said there is a proposal for a Commercial Kitchen at the Beede Building in Penacook. Chair Keegan said everyone should have the well done report completed in 2015 titled *Boscawen Shared Use Commercial Kitchen Feasibility Study*. Jared Reynolds said they have been working at the Beede Building. Half will be rentable office space, the other half will be a woodshop, metal shop, computer lab, prototyping lab, conference room and classroom. The monthly membership is \$50 or \$100 for a family and the office space is separate. Mr. Reynolds said the vision has always been for a commercial kitchen. This space would be a good location for both Concord and Boscawen. This would be an expensive project to start but would be profitable. Mr. Reynolds said most of the discussions he has had have been on the Concord side. Mr. Reynolds questioned if the commercial kitchen in Bradford is being utilized by local residents or if it is too far away. Mr. Porter said it is too far away. Chair Keegan said when the discussion started it was proposed in Warner but unfortunately there was lack of time and energy. Mr. Porter said you need an anchor tenant; this was the Keene model. Mr. Reynolds said the benefit in Penacook is this would be one part of a larger initiative. Chair Keegan said a farmer in Danbury has a commercial kitchen that is successful. Mr. Colby spoke about making candy and the difficulty in doing this off site. Chairman Keegan spoke about issues of storage. Mr. Reynolds said other opportunities do come up, Shaker Village, for example, now has an empty restaurant. Mr. Reynolds said he wants to gauge the interest from Boscawen farmers. Chair Keegan said the Master Plan has a current list of active farms that he can send to Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Colby said education for farmers to set up at home would be more useful. With farm labor during the growing season, it would be difficult-to go somewhere else. Mr. Porter said some people get started by operating low key in their home under the Homestead License before getting big. Mr. Reynolds said they can interview farmers with different opinions to gauge their interest.

**Adjournment: Motion made at 7:46pm by Rusty Colby and seconded by Bill Bevans to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.**

*Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco*