

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- FINAL
Boscawen Municipal Complex
February 14, 2019 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio, Bill Bevins, Josh Marshall

Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Alan Hardy

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a quorum.

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Farm Tax Relief Bill: Mrs. Easler said that she and Alan Hardy met with Mark Stetson and Carrie Connors on January 31st. Mrs. Easler said that there are applications in the Commissions packets. Mrs. Easler said that in 2008 in the Coos County this legislation was started. Mrs. Easler said that this is something that would be voted in at Town meeting. Mr. Hardy said the first step is to get the exemption passed and carve out an exemption that is strictly for agriculture. Chair Keegan said this was only for new construction. Mr. Hardy said it is only for new construction and was aiming to bring in new business. Chair Keegan questioned if any Towns have gone through this process. Mr. Hardy said he does not have knowledge of any. Chair Keegan said this would possibly have costs up front but overall would benefit the Town. Mr. Hardy said it would but the challenge is where you want this development to take place such as giving up Crete's field or Route 4. Chair Keegan questioned if there was where businesses want to go. Mr. Hardy stated it depends on the type of business. Mr. Colby suggested Steinbeck property. Mr. Hardy said most of those buildings are coming down. Chair Keegan spoke about the Agricultural land in Town. Mr. Hardy spoke about Crete's Farm being zoned Industrial. Mr. Hardy said that this property can maintain its agricultural use but if they stopped the use it could pose a problem. Mr. Porter said they may be opening up more than what they are looking for and should only proceed with the Agricultural portion of this. Mr. Porter said he doesn't feel giving an incentive on Industrial land is good when it is so limited. Mr. Hardy said some Towns it makes sense to have this incentive and Boscawen doesn't fit. Mrs. Easler said that prior to a warrant article it has to be determined the length of time for each application which can be no more than 10 and the amount of time you adopt the program for which is up to 5 years. Mrs. Easler said that last year a Solar exemption warrant article did not pass because people didn't fully understand so you need to be specific. Mr. Hardy said in retail, Commercial you would see a benefit. Mr. Colby said there is a difference between Agricultural and Commercial. Mr. Hardy questioned what Richardson's would be. Mr. Colby said it is a mix.

MOTION: Mr. Porter made a motion to table the further discussion of pursuing 72-80 but maintain the philosophical approach of looking at ways to make things attractive for Agriculture in our State and Town. All were in favor.

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Mr. Porter said one way to keep this alive is to follow up with the idea of educating the Assessors as well as working with the Farm Credit Assessor on clarifying single use structures and equipment versus real estate.

Capital Area Public Health Network: Mrs. Easler said she was involved as the Health Officer doing Shelter training. Mrs. Easler said they set up a template for other surrounding Towns to set up emergency shelters. Mrs. Easler said that in June the Emergency Management will hold a workshop in June. Mrs. Easler said that the Agricultural Commission had discussed emergency procedures for large animals. Mr. Hardy said at the State level at one point it was set up to house animals at fairgrounds. Mrs. Easler said the plan for large animals was to move them to the horse farm on Water Street and small animals could go to Riverside Veterinary Hospital. Mrs. Easler questioned setting up a clear written plan.

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

- **Cemetery**
 - Mrs. Easler said an application for a private Cemetery was just submitted.

Planning Board:

- Mrs. Easler said that the Dollar General decision from the court case was received and they are waiting to hear further details.

Natural Resources:

- Mrs. Easler presented three maps to the Board about the Towns Natural Resources Inventory. Mrs. Easler said the Natural Resources will be part of the Master Plan and is being worked on by Amanda Stone, John Abby and Mark Kaplan. Mrs. Easler said she believes Mark will want to discuss with the Commission. Mrs. Easler said the Conservation Commission is willing to pay the \$7,500 to work with Central NH Regional Planning Commission to work on this. Mrs. Easler said that the Conservation Commission is keeping money from timber cuts and in return has pulled their budget for 2019-2020. Mrs. Easler said this will identify species of animals.

Welcome Signs:

- Julie Fournier said she took pictures of all the signs to determine what issues some of the signs may have and also to determine size of drop down signs. Ms. Fournier said when going to get bids it would be good to show pictures. Ms. Fournier also suggested replacing the sign that is in the worst shape with the sign that is in storage. Ms. Fournier questioned if they raised the welcome sign to give

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more room for the drop down signs under. Mr. Porter suggested just putting signs like blueberry season to educate people.

Community Garden: Chair Keegan said there shouldn't be any major changes in how the Garden is currently operating.

Membership Renewal: Mrs. Easler said John and Tina are up for renewal and will have appointment papers for the Board of Selectmen to sign and then the Commission members.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. All Committee members were present.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco