

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- Final  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
March 14, 2019 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio

Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Danielle Bosco, Carrie Cree, Colby Sawyer College student

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Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a quorum.

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Chair Keegan said student Carrie from Colby Sawyer is present to see how an Agricultural Commission works and gather helpful information to bring back to their food policy group.

Chair Keegan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended- line 11-strike the, line 12- agriculture, line 15- does not and remove the word the, line 30- period before Commercial, line 36- change municipality to accessors, line 43- remove would, line 49- change comma to period, line 63- Jeff not John, line 75- remove they, line 76- remove under, line 82- membership renewal should be in bold, line 86- motion to adjourn should be in bold. All members were in favor.

**Treasurers Report:** Chair Keegan said the budget was approved as submitted at Town Meeting for \$2,000. All members accepted the Treasures Report of January 1- March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Land Use Happenings:**

- Mrs. Easler said the ZBA approved the Special Exception for the private cemetery. Mrs. Easler said the next step is for the applicant to purchase the property.
- Mrs. Easler said that two pieces on High street have an application for a lot line adjustment.
- Mrs. Easler said there is a sheep that has been roaming around on Queen Street that has been getting out and onto other residents' property. Mrs. Easler said she sent the owner a letter on the steps for receiving a special exception to have the sheep at the property. Mrs. Easler said they may need recommendations for keeping it penned in along with a site visit by the Commission.
- Mr. Porter questioned if there was any plan for the Tannery. Mrs. Easler said it has not been talked about recently. In the past, the town representatives have spoken with a few contractors but no plans are currently in place.

**Welcome Signs:**

- Mr. Porter said he is picking up the original paint, with the mixing codes, from Chuck who made the signs. Mr. Porter said he plans to go to Capital Paint for primer

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recommendations. Mr. Marshall said he still needs to look into the costs for the individual drop signs we will be using seasonally. Ms. Fournier was able to take pictures of the sign currently stored at Torrent Station and wrote down measurements. She gave the information to Mr. Marshall. Ms. Fournier reported a cap was missing on one of the signs. Mr. Porter said caps are available at building supply outlets. Mr. Porter asked the Commission for permission to touch-up the signs with primer as soon as possible. This will allow the primer to soak into the wood and dry thoroughly before being painted. Mr. Marshall made a motion to allow, seconded by Ms. Larochelle.

- **Motion:** Mr. Porter to touch up the signs with primer. All were in favor. Approved.

**Community Garden:**

- Chair Keegan said applications are available for the Garden. Chair Keegan said Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training will be set up. Mr. Porter questioned if something would be going in the News Vine for applications. Chair Keegan said it should be, as well as the town website, library, Barn Store and bank. Mr. Porter recommended Fox's hardware. Mrs. Easler recommended the hair dresser in town.
- Chair Keegan said Jim Bode was an active volunteer who passed away last year, his daughter came to see the memorial bench.
- Chair Keegan said there is a pool of money for people that cannot afford a plot or need a little money for supplies. Chair Keegan said plots are available for residents, people who work in town as well as residents of surrounding communities, if plots are available.
- Mr. Porter questioned what the plan was for rototilling. Mr. Marshall said Roger Sanborn has done it in the past. Chair Keegan said he will talk with Jeff Abbe as he organizes those activities.

**Tax Assessor Education:**

- Chair Keegan said the Commission would like to set up an educational workshop at the Municipal Conference. Mrs. Easler said that is in the fall and she can contact organizers to get information for the Commission.

**Harvest New England Conference:**

- Mr. Marshall attended the Conference in Massachusetts. One topic was about starting an Agricultural Commission. Mr. Marshall said he was surprised how many towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut are opposed to establishing Agricultural Commissions in

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contrast to the generalized support in New Hampshire. Mr. Marshall noted this Commission is lucky to have a supportive town government.

**Traffic Circle:**

- Ms. Fournier said the traffic circle grows mostly weeds and is curious if it is state owned and if they could improve the ‘look’. Mr. Colby reported a similar case in another town that had New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) owned property where there was a liability issue. Mr. Marshall recalled that last year there was talk in town about the round-about. Mrs. Easler responded that last year volunteers started discussing beautification and the NHDOT mowed the vegetation. Mr. Bevans pulled-up the year old newspaper article regarding this issue. It cited a possible safety issue. Mr. Marshall noted that at the lights near Highway View Farm there are nice flowers that have been maintained locally, perhaps because it is a safer area, without interference from NHDOT. Chair Keegan said the Commission could bring this matter to the Selectmen to inform them of our interest in improving the appearance of the round-about and to check if there are other town initiatives related to the round-about with NHDOT. Mrs. Easler said she will put Chair Keegan on the selectmen’s next agenda. Ms. Fournier then asked about the ‘adopt a spot program’. Chair Keegan said, he understands that, it involves the NHDOT and volunteering to pick-up trash along a designated section of state highway.

**Brochure:**

- Mr. Marshall said he received an email regarding New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food brochure titled ‘Experience Rural New Hampshire Brochure Event/Activity Registration’. Mr. Marshall said things like Old Home Day or other agriculture related events scheduled 2019(May to December) and 2020(January to April) can be included. He wanted to share it with the Commission and other town boards and commissions. Chair Keegan said the Community Garden might qualify and, possibly, the Conservation Commission. Mr. Marshall said the deadline is tomorrow but will reach out to see if this is a hard deadline. Chair Keegan said he will reach out to the Conservation Commission.

**NOFA:**

- Mrs. Easler questioned if Commissioners would like information regarding various conferences circulated. Mrs. Easler said this August is the New England Woman’s Herbal Conference. Ms. Fournier brought up the discussion of hemp. Mr. Marshall said now States can permit cultivation but NH has yet to pass necessary enabling legislation.

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Mr. Marshall noted that it is legal in surrounding states and, by not allowing it in NH, it will only hurt farmers.

**Motion to adjourn:**

- Made by Mr. Colby and seconded by Mrs. Larochelle. All in favor, none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco