

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes- Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
April 11, 2019 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio, Bill Bevans-Vice Chair, Danielle Bosco, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Joe Pustizzi

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

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Chair Keegan asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended- line 26-replace of with for, line 100 strike it. Tina Larochelle made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Josh Marshall. All were in favor.

Treasurers Report: Josh Marshall made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Seconded by Tina Larochelle. All were in favor.

Election of Officers: John Porter made a motion for John Keegan to be Chairman and Bill Bevans to be Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All were in favor.

Land Use Happenings:

- Mrs. Easler said in 1999 Bernie Davis had a covenants put in place for a Lot Line Adjustment. Mrs. Easler said the ZBA approved this and the next step is to go to Planning Board.
- Mrs. Easler said Page Pond Trust had a lot line adjustment done that added 10 acres to another trust property. By doing this, it separates the business from the lot.
- Mrs. Easler said Dollar General will start building on April 15th.
- Mrs. Easler received an email about goats living at 6 Baker Street. The property owner had been granted a special exception for goats with the requirement that a Site Visit be done within the year. The visit needs to be scheduled. The property owner in addition, would now like to have 6 ducks which will require an amendment to their Special Exception. The Committee discussed if ducks are permitted, their requirement for water and proper housing. Chair Keegan asked that a Site Visit be scheduled. Mr. Marshall noted that if the property owners meet the requirements and the animals are well cared for they should be approved.

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- Mr. Porter reported he is still concerned about the Tannery falling apart. Mrs. Easler responded she and Alan had checked the conditions. There is not money, to her knowledge, in the budget to demo the building.

Joe Pustizzi: Mr. Pustizzi is proposing to create a multiple day learning experience for people interested in farming. He will build a yurt, a tent like cabin to accommodate participants. Mr. Colby questioned what kind of roof it would have. Mr. Pustizzi said it would have a hard roof and canvas walls. He plans to start with one yurt and expand as needed. Mr. Pustizzi gave an example of a Maine facility with a similar mission. His major concern is the potential impact of removing some land from Current Use (CU). Mr. Marshall said he does not believe this would fall under the CU exemption. Mr. Colby questioned if participants would be cooking their own food and serving food. Mr. Pustizzi responded he would be providing the food. Mrs. Easler noted it may be back land, and not high value. She said there would be a penalty for land removed from CU but the remainder would stay in CU. For this reason she suggested Mr. Pustizzi plan carefully for the amount and location for the land to be removed from CU. Mr. Marshall suggested he review RSA 79:e for more CU information. Mr. Marshall went on to note that Miles Smith Farm in Loudon offers a similar experience for non-farmers. Mr. Colby suggested he check with his insurance company. Mr. Pustizzi said he wants this to be classified as Agritourism. Mr. Marshall said that if the Town were to contest this, it would be appealed to the Commissioner of Agriculture on the town's dime, based on a recent change in the law.

Welcome Signs: Mr. Marshall handed out drafts from the prison sign shop. Mr. Marshall believes the Commission wants something different than the purposed signs. He noted coloring of the signs and the lettering, sign size and the lack of a 'blueberry' sign are the major differences. Mr. Colby suggested adding 'vegetables' to the list of signs while Mrs. Larochelle thought the 2.5 inch font was too small. Discussion followed. Chair Keegan asked Mr. Marshall to discuss the sign size and color, font size and design as well as costs with the prison sign shop. Mr. Colby said black signs versus colored signs may be a significant price difference. Chair Keegan said the Commission is planning to spend 20-30 dollars per sign. Chair Keegan asked Mr. Marshall to send Commission Members the feedback and prices from the sign shop. Members will then send their preferences to Mr. Keegan. Mr. Porter said he has the original paint color and is waiting for nicer weather to touch up the signs with primer.

Community Garden: Chair Keegan said there are 40 of 60 plots that are now taken. Chair Keegan said information is up at Fox Hardware, Penacook Pharmacy, The Hair Clip, Kapellis,

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Kays Place Coffee Shop, The Barn Store, Franklin Savings Bank, Town Office, Town Website and the Transfer Station. Chair Keegan said he thinks the new signs can be kept at the Garden Shed.

Tax Assessor Education: Chair Keegan asked where this stood currently. Mrs. Easler thinks she has sent the information but will check and, if not, send it as soon as possible. The Conference is in November. Chair Keegan will contact Farm Credit East.

Traffic Circle for Exit 17: Chair Keegan spoke with the Selectmen about the upkeep of the Traffic Circle. The Town is working with the DOT on an agreement to enable a group of volunteers to take care of this area. Chair Keegan suggested to the Selectmen using perennials instead of annuals at the circle.

Commission Information: Chair Keegan presented the Commissioners with information regarding Bylaws, RSA's and Rules of Procedure. The Bylaws and Procedural Rules were adopted when the Commission formed and proved their utility during the controversy over the music school. Chair Keegan said that he just wanted the Commissioners to have this information. Chair Keegan provided most of this same information to the Colby Sawyer student that visited last month.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor, none opposed

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco