

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Boscawen Municipal Complex
May 9, 2019 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio, Tina Larochelle, Josh Marshall, John Porter

Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Community Development Director

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

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Minutes:

January 10, 2019 Mrs. Easler said line 14 and 16 Mr. Bevans is spelled incorrectly. Mr. Bevans said line 31 Agritourism spelling is not correct.

Bill Bevans made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All were in favor.

April 11, 2019 line 53 Agritourism line 65- change stain to paint.

Bill Bevan's made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All were in favor.

Treasurers Report: Chair Keegan said a major change was the Community Garden payments. There is only one plot available.

Bill Bevans made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Seconded by Julie Fournier. All were in favor.

Land Use Happenings:

- Mrs. Easler said Planning Board amended Bernie Davis' Plan so he can go forward, if he wants to Subdivide.
- Mrs. Easler reported-a Conditional Use Permit for an expansion of the Veterinary Clinic. They plan to add a building out back. The Planning Board put conditions on landscaping, sound and VCA standards. All will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee.
- Dollar General is moving along and plans to open mid-August. Ms. Fournier questioned if there was a restriction on having things outside. Mrs. Easler said in the Notice of Decision there are such restrictions.
- Chair Keegan questioned if there was any update on the traffic circle near Exit 17. Alan Hardy spoke with a representative from the State Department of Transportation (DOT) who reported the DOT remains open to entering into agreement with the Town of Boscawen. Mr. Hardy asked if the Town should provide a draft agreement. Chair Keegan asked if the town is planning to plant annuals or perennials. That detail was not discussed. Chair Keegan said the Agricultural Commission is in favor of perennials over annuals for

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if safety reasons. Mr. Bevans said a resident had tended the plantings in the past. Mrs. Easler reported the resident had done it 'under the radar' and has since passed away.

Bee Keeping Article: Mrs. Easler distributed an article on bee keeping written by Josh Marshall.

Site Walk: Mr. Bevans said that he and Mr. Marshall completed the Site Walk on April 29, 201 at 6 Baker St. with Melanie Welch where the ducks will be housed. The duck house is big and adequate. They will be putting up fencing. The owners will clip the ducks wings to prevent 'fly aways'. Mr. Bevans also said the goats at the property looked well cared for.

Welcome Signs: Chair Keegan received an email for Mr. Marshall stating he has not yet heard back from the Prison about the signs. Chair Keegan is also waiting to hear about the priming from Mr. Porter. Chair Keegan will follow up with both individuals.

Community Garden: Chair Keegan announced the Integrated Pest Management presentation by Anne Lacroix will be on May 13th from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the Town Office Building.

Tax Assessor Education: Chair Keegan said he spoke with Mr. Robinson about the NHMA Fall Conference and sent him the written material the Commission had prepared. He is now waiting for a reply from Mr. Robinson.

Commission Information: Mrs. Easler said that every year the Commission encounters requests from residents who want livestock in a Residential Zone. Under current regulations this requires a Special Exception. Which then entails a Site Visit by Agricultural Commission Members. This results in a report to the ZBA, For example, a resident who lives in a Residential Zone might want sheep. Today, Mrs. Easler has to send the resident a letter stating they were required to have a Special Exception for the sheep. The cost of a Special Exception ranges from \$300-\$500. In the past, Mr. Hardy has suggested that the Town have a hearing once a year for residents wanting to have livestock but needing a Special Exception. Chair Keegan said, in his opinion, the Commission should give this a try. The next step would be for Mrs. Easler and Mr. Hardy to speak with the ZBA. Chair Keegan said he would join them, if needed. The Commission consensus is that more than one hearing per year will be needed.

Scholarship: Mrs. Easler presented a request for a Fish and Game Camp Scholarship and she wanted guidance. Mr. Bevans said that, unfortunately, the program is already full. Mr. Bevans

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said Sunset Fish and Game Club has scholarships available. Chair Keegan questioned what the Commissioners thought of giving scholarships to Boscawen residents. Mr. Bevans said it is a great camp and kids learn a lot. Chair Keegan said that money could designated in the budget for scholarships if Commissioners so voted and put a selection process in place. Chair Keegan asked this item be on the June Agenda. Mr. Bevans asked that this individual be informed that the Commission is not able to fund his request as we do not offer scholarships at this time. Mrs. Easler will draft a letter.

Mr. Bevans said there is a program that you can sign up to have people camp on your land to enjoy a farming experience for \$100 a night, you receive \$80 and the company keeps \$20. Mr. Bevans said he was not at the last meeting but this program is similar to the one discussed last month.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco