

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

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

Others Present: Danielle Bosco, Kearsten O’Brien, Kellee-Jo Easler

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 7:00pm.

Chair Keegan read off the Covid-10 Public Meeting Notice of Telephonic Meetings, which reads as follows: In light of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 13, 2020, and to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting is being recorded and any votes will be roll call votes.

Roll call completed by Chair Keegan

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- **Julie Fournier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Josh Marshall. All in favor. None opposed.**

Financial Report:

Chair Keegan stated there were some expenses in the Community Garden but they have a profit of \$870 and there is \$975 for the Round About. Chair Keegan said after he speaks with Katie he anticipates that money will go to the Circle Committee fund.

Land Use Happenings:

Kellee Easler said the Planning Board approved an excavation permit and a conditional use permit for a small gravel pit. They will be taking out material from 451 DW Highway and trucking it to Franklin. They have met all the conditions and are ready to go. Mrs. Easler said there also has been a Subdivision on Knowlton Road that resulted in 5 lots from what had been 3 lots. Mrs. Easler said they are getting close to the 20 lot subdivision limit. Further development will require traffic and impact studies.

Old Business:

- Round a-bout update:
Chair Keegan said a Sub-Committee of the Ag Commission was established by the Select Board for this project. Today they formed a separate Circle Committee unrelated to Ag Comm. He explained that due to the current limitations related to Covid-19 and funding restraints there is no work in progress, only planning and fund raising. A funding application has been submitted for \$10,000 to Franklin Savings Bank which will take 4-5 months. There is potential for funding from Pete & Jerry’s for another \$10,000. The anticipated total budget is approximately \$40,000 for the project. Thomson Land Care,

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ADM and Jeff Raymond are assisting at no cost. Mr. Marshall questioned what was included in the project cost. Among the costs are: laying 1,200 feet of irrigation line to get from Tremont Street to the Circle which is roughly \$4,000-\$5,000 for materials. The walls, labor and materials, is about \$10,000; plant material is roughly \$8,000. The water will be donated from the Precinct but the hookup but related labor will be several hundred dollar. Chair Keegan said he will send members the budget. Ms. Fournier asked if the weeds would be sprayed. Chair Keegan said Doug Thomson will be doing it. Mr. Colby said this project has really grown much larger than first discussed and is not in favor of putting time, effort and money into State land. Mr. Marshall agrees that the original idea was to just make it look nice and kept up. Mr. Marshall said it does make it easier that the money will be donated and not come from taxes. Mr. Porter questioned the visibility with walls. Chair Keegan said the total height of the walls will be 22 inches above ground. Chair Keegan said they continue working with NHDOT staff and Engineers. Mr. Marshall questioned if the agreement with the State will have language about not removing any complete work. Chair Keegan said they have an agreement to do the work and would hope NHDOT would not remove it. However, this is State owned right of way. Mr. Colby questioned who would maintain the plantings. Chair Keegan said Circle Committee volunteers. The Select Board is considering the formation of a Beautification Committee. There has been some discussion of extending the water to the lights near Highway View Farm as well as returning the flags to Route 4.

● **Community Garden:**

Chair Keegan said all 72 plots are currently being used as well as 1 additional 4 plot that Jeff Abbe has laid out, if needed. One of the gardeners is a professional painter and volunteered to repaint the shed. Jeff Abbe said he spoke with Mr. Marshall about mowing the rye in the area not being gardened. Mr. Marshall is unable to do so because of equipment limitation and time constraints. Mr. Abbe has buckwheat to plant. Chair Keegan so questioned if it needs to be mowed or turned over. Both Mr. Marshall and Mr. Porter said it would need to be turned over. Ms. Fournier questioned if there was any update on the NH Gleans project. Chair Keegan will ask Mr. Abbe.

Welcome Signs- Mr. Porter said this is on his list to finish touching up the signs and will start with the one near the Penacook Line. Chair Keegan said Jeff Abbe did put up the Strawberry signs.

New Business:

● **NH Agriculture Covid-19 relief program-**

Chair Keegan questioned if anyone in Town would be able to benefit from this. Mr. Marshall said there are 1.5 million dollars in this fund for Specialty Crop Farmers that are non-dairy and grossed \$50,000 or more. Mr. Marshall said applications need to be submitted prior to June 22. He also pointed out that this funding is to be utilized for

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fulltime farmers that are at risk. Chair Keegan questioned if anyone leased land in Town that would fall under this. Mr. Colby said the Mock's might.

Mr. Marshall said there is a separate Aid to Dairy Farmers so he thinks that would leave the Crete's and Morrill's not able to receive the Specialty Crop money.

Chair Keegan brought up holding a meeting next month. Mr. Marshall said if there is nothing pressing, he would rather not have a meeting in person. Ms. Fournier questioned if they would be able to meet. Mrs. Easler said for now the Selectmen would like to continue with the Go to Meetings and she doesn't have a date of when regular meetings will be allowed to again. Ms. Fournier said she would like to meet in July. Mr. Colby and Mr. Porter both agreed if there is nothing of importance to discuss we should not meet in July. Ms. Fournier said she would like to meet in July to get an update on the Circle and Garden. Mrs. Larochelle said she would like to meet in July but if there isn't anything to discuss, then cancel. Chair Keegan requested that if anyone has something to discuss to send it to him by July 1 and he will determine if they need to hold a meeting.

Adjournment: Motion made by Julie Fournier and seconded by Josh Marshall to adjourn. Roll Call Vote was made. All in favor. None oppose

Adjournment at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted, Danielle Bosco