

Town of Boscawen, NH

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION Boscawen Municipal Complex

MEETING MINUTES – Approved Thursday, May 14, 2015

Commissioners Present: John Keegan, Elaine Clow, Angela Swyers, William Bevans, Tina Larochelle (arrived at 7:07)

Alternate Commissioner Present: Tom Danko

Commissioner Absent (Ex Officio): Roger Sanborn

Alternate Commissioners Absent: Ken Marshall, John Porter

Others present: Bruce Crawford, Chair of the Planning Board

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and appointed Tom Danko to voting status. Vice Chairwoman Clow exited the meeting upon Commissioner Larochelle's arrival.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Danko and seconded by Ms. Swyers to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Accounting Report

Chairman Keegan reviewed the accounting report effective April 30, 2015 and pointed out that the \$400 that had been mis-coded in last month's report has been corrected. Monies have been spent on the irrigation system. The kiosk invoice, which came in under the budgeted, authorized amount of \$450, will be submitted to staff for payment.

Motion was made by Tina Larochelle to accept the Agricultural Commission accounting report presented. Ms. Swyers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Land Use Happenings

Chairman Keegan reported that the hearing easement on the barn at Art Colony passed and legal documents are currently being drafted. All welcome signs are up with the exception of the signs at North Water and Water Streets which will go up as soon as Spring cleaning is done.

- **Formulation of Recommendation to Planning Board regarding Site Review**

Chairman Keegan opened discussion that was raised at the last commission meeting regarding the need for Site Plan review for new agricultural projects. Bruce Crawford, Chairman of the Planning Board, indicated that the issue was raised during discussion of construction of housing for chickens, and felt that the main issue centered on public participation, traffic patterns, and the like. Chairman Keegan noted that no action was necessary if the property is zoned as an agricultural zone. If not agriculturally zoned, the

Table of Uses is to be reviewed. If a lot of traffic is expected, the Planning Board must review the plans. It was noted that Farm Stands must sell 35 percent of produce in accord with statute. Chairman Keegan suggested further discussion of Farm Stands and establishing threshold verbiage to be taken to the Planning Board.

- **Status of Master Plan: Agritourism Discussion**

Chairman Keegan noted the change made to objective #5 of the Master Plan to read: “to encourage residents to purchase and use local agricultural products to support local producers”, and asked how the change can be made official. Bruce Crawford stated that the request to change the verbiage must be sent to the Planning Board for approval. The Planning Board will then hold a public hearing and the Master Plan changed accordingly. Commission members briefly discussed agritourism legislation

New Business:

Community Kitchen. A one page report was provided. Chairman Keegan indicated that most farmers who were part of a study are not interested in “value-added” but are very interested in season extenders. It was mentioned that the town hall kitchen needed major upgrades. Chairman Keegan indicated that the report is being reviewed by the USDA. A final copy of the report will be circulated and should be available by the next meeting for more discussion.

Old Business:

- **Legislative Update**

Bruce Crawford stated that a Department of Environmental Services wetlands permitting bill was tabled. HB 650 was voted as Inexpedient to Legislate.

- **Educational Program**

Vice Chairwoman Elaine Clow reported that the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop of May 11th was not as successful as previous workshops. It seems the UNH Extension program has been standardized for use throughout the State. Commission members discussed the need for a program that was geared to more advanced gardeners. Chairman Keegan and Vice Chairwoman Clow stated that Cindy Saka, IPM presenter, did a good job; the problem was the material presented.

Elaine Clow moved that the Agricultural Commission approach the UNH Extension (Amy Ouellette) to indicate that the Commission would like to see more advanced content in its IPM workshop. The motion was seconded by Tina Larochelle and passed unanimously.

- **Community Garden**

Chairman Keegan reported that the Garden Committee had been working hard to prepare the soil and install the new irrigation system. Twenty one plots are actively being used. There is still plenty of capacity available. No new applications were received last week. The kiosk has been delivered. The

posts will be embedded in cement. Signage will not be provided by the prison as previously expected. Cleaning of the herb garden will begin with the help of Garden Committee members, and generous donations of compost, mulch, and lumber.

- **Newsletter**

A copy of the March 5, 2015 newsletter was provided within the agenda packet.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Bevans and was seconded by Tina Larochelle. All Commission members approved and the meeting ended.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be held on June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Suzanne Beauchesne