

Town of Boscawen
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes-Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
October 11, 2018 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Tina Larochelle, Josh Marshall

Others Present: Alan Hardy- Co- Administrator, Katherine Phelps- Finance Administrator, Danielle Bosco – Recording Secretary

Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with a voting board.

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Chair Keegan asked if anyone had any changes to the previous minutes from 09/13/2018 and the following changes were made: Line 15- into s trust fund (change s to a) Line 77- People the shared (remove the) Line 94- supports the idea of a join project (change to join to joint) Line 98- Chair Keegan he received (remove he) Line 109- of the garden (remove of) Line 110- Brode Fund (change to Bode).

Motion made to accept the September minutes as amended by Mrs. Fournier and seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor, none opposed.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Porter asked if something official had to be done with the donation money before the end of the year. Mr. Hardy said nothing can be done with the money until Town Meeting. Mrs. Phelps said the \$500 that came in was to be used now and an additional \$500 will come in to establish Jim Bode's Fund and instructions were left on how the money was to be used. She believes it is for the bench.

Mr. Hardy said while the Board is talking about money the budget needs approval and he is wondering if they need any additional money. Mrs. Fournier said if they are going to be promoting a recognition type program will there be some money available or any costs to doing this. Chair Keegan said they have \$400 left in the budget this year still so he feels that is sufficient. Mr. Hardy said if they found they had a very good program that they could use the money they can pull from other accounts and adapt. Mr. Porter questioned what the actual yearly budget is. Chair Keegan said they have \$2000 a year. Mr. Bevin's said that amount should be sufficient.

Motion made to accept the Budget for 2019 by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Colby. All in favor, none opposed.

Commissions Visit: Chair Keegan asked if everyone saw the Commissioners article. Chair Keegan said the visit went very well. Chair Keegan said one thing the Commissioner didn't say was that the flock of chickens that Tom has is a different breed and due to organic specifications they need more outside space per bird and now have 6000 less birds this year. Mr. Colby said

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they have had a high mortality rate due to poor de-beaking. Chair Keegan said they don't look like they were de-beaked. Chair Keegan said this breed also lays white eggs once in awhile and he sells only brown eggs but is not penalized and still is reviewing full market value. Mr. Colby said he received some relief. Chair Keegan said the two barns in Monroe that Tom manages have not been as vigorous. Mr. Colby questioned if one of the farms was being shut down. Chair Keegan said one has been shut down. Chair Keegan said there is no odor of nitrogen at all and the doors and lights are computerized and hooked up to a calendar to change for daylight savings. Mr. Hardy asked if the difficulties at the other barns will result in an opportunity for Tom. Chair Keegan said the discussion was more about the current operation and the sophistication of the operation. Mr. Colby said they talked about the bio security and was surprised it wasn't more extensive, some operations require you to wear a suit. Chair Keegan said the manure was questioned by the Commissioner and Tom told him it's organic he is able to sell it. Chair Keegan said he spoke with the Commissioner about the bill they are working on and the training for municipal assessors. Chair Keegan said the Commissioner said he might have a road into the Municipal Association. Chair Keegan said they went to Richardson's Ice Cream after. Chair Keegan said they discussed the trade name. Mr. Porter said there is a Richardson's in Massachusetts that creates a lot of confusion. Mr. Colby said he had the same issue with the Outback Sugar Shack and met with the Attorney General but was told he needed a lawyer. Chair Keegan said the Commissioner said to go the legislative route and work with the Senator or Representative on a bill. Chair Keegan said Mr. Richardson showed them around and showed them how they make the base for the ice cream. Chair Keegan said he wrote the Commissioner a thank you letter for coming out. Chair Keegan said Andy Morrill joined them and they went to a piece of land on Water Street they own and went over his plans and how they are still considering moving his operation to that location. Mr. Colby said that's a million dollar operation that started out a 2 or 3 million dollar operation they scaled back. Mr. Colby said they visited the saw mill then Mr. Colby's operation at the sugar shack. Chair Keegan said he thinks the visit went well and they showed the Commissioner what Boscawen has to offer. Mrs. Fournier said he must have been amazed with the advances that have been made with the poultry farm. Mr. Colby said the Commissioner has visited the large poultry farm in Walpole so he is familiar with this. Chair Keegan said the Commissioner is very active in the poultry association.

Farm Tax Relief Bill: Mr. Porter said they have a working meeting Monday morning to go over some language on the new bill.

Other Land Use: Chair Keegan said he and Mr. Porter were approached about starting a Agricultural Commission. Mr. Porter said the meeting is November 17th for the Horse Council and they are trying to educate that group and are looking for an educational presentation. Mr. Porter said he would attend and asked who would be able to attend. Ms. Fournier said she would like to attend to learn more information for herself. Mr. Porter questioned how the Agricultural Commission started. Chair Keegan said it was started by Michele Tremblay whom was on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Hardy said Michele had a hard time starting the Commission.

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Chair Keegan said Michele asked for volunteers to start the Agricultural Commission and himself and a few others volunteered. Chair Keegan said a warrant article was presented at Town Meeting. Mr. Hardy said the first meeting started bumpy but the outcome was great. Mr. Porter said he believes some towns think they need large commercial farmers on it when they really only need people with Agricultural interests to be on the Commission. Mr. Porter said they also need projects to be successful. Chair Keegan said the Board isn't regulatory Board it's and advisory Board.

Community Garden: Chair Keegan said Jeff sent out a notice that it's time to clean up plots. Chair Keegan said he believes the plan is to put down Rye but needs to talk to Jeff about when that will be done. Mr. Porter said it should be done by October 15 per NRCS recommendation. Chair Keegan asked Mr. Hardy if he heard from Linda about the grading. Mr. Hardy said she is on vacation but has sent the email. Chair Keegan told the Board he is talking about the Ken Marshall Memorial Garden being graded.

New Business: Mr. Hardy said that Cumby's will be closing for roughly 2 weeks to work on septic tanks that are under the parking lot on the left side. Mr. Hardy also said Kesavan's next to Alan's Restaurant will be cleaned out and the only thing left will be the house in the front. Mr. Hardy said the families have relocated, the owner of the barber shop school in Penacook is looking to buy the property. Mrs. Fournier asked how large the parcel is. Mr. Hardy said it's under an acre. Mr. Hardy said he worked on this property for a long time and the new health officer has handled this and they are ready to move forward. Mr. Hardy said new manufactured homes will be put in.

Ms. Fournier wanted to talk about the giant pumpkin that won at the Deerfield Fair. Mr. Hardy asked who knew him so they could get a picture for the Town Report. Chair Keegan said he can. Ms. Fournier asked if they could get a competition of giant pumpkins at the Community Garden. Chair Keegan said a lot goes into growing giant pumpkins and they can grow 50 pounds a day it wouldn't be something they could do or have room for in the Community Garden.

Chair Keegan said he was talking with Mr. Hardy about the upcoming elections with and realized the next time they meet the elections would have already taken place. Mr. Keegan said they should invite whoever emerges as Senator and State Representative to one of the meetings so they can discuss what they are working on with the legislative. The Commission agreed that was a good idea. Mr. Hardy said they can open it up as a public meeting and invite people.

Chair Keegan said going back to the Commissioner's visit Andy discussed easements. The Commissioner told him to be sure the Easement was written in such a way they can do what they need to do with the piece. Chair Keegan said he recommended an Attorney named Amy Gonzilia that has written several of these easements. Mr. Hardy said Amy has worked with Theresa on several of these and is knowledgeable.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco