

Town of Boscawen

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes – Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
July 14, 2016 at 7pm

Members Present: Elaine Clow – Vice Chair, Angela Swyers, Josh Marshall, Bill Bevans

Member Ex-Officio Absent: Roger Sanborn

Members Absent: John Keegan – Chair, Tina Larochelle, Ken Marshall, John Porter

Others Present: Bruce Crawford, Katie Phelps – Recording Secretary

Vice-Chair Elaine Clow called the meeting to order at 7:04pm with a voting board.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

April Minutes:

- **Motion to accept minutes as revised made by Josh Marshall, seconded by Angela Swyers. All in favor.**

May Minutes:

- **Motion to accept minutes as revised made by Bill Bevans, seconded by Josh Marshall. All in favor.**

June Minutes:

- **Motion to accept minutes as revised made by Angela Swyers, seconded by Josh Marshall. All in favor.**

There was no accountant report to review for this meeting.

Land Use Happenings/Other:

Agritourism and legal issues were discussed. Maggie Hassan has signed the Agritourism Bill. Discussion ensued about the Forster v. Town of Henniker case that is going back to court again.

Bruce Crawford discussed Senate Bill 146 - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). He stated that anyone can put an apartment in their house by right. Accessory Dwelling Units were originally conceived to be mother-in-law apartments. The way it reads now there doesn't have to be any family relationship – you can rent it to anyone. Bruce went on to say that we need to re-write our Accessory Dwelling Unit regulation.

Josh Marshall stated that nationally the GMO disclosure legislation passed. It was a compromise because Vermont's Law went into effect July 1, 2016, which put the pressure on law makers to do something nationally. You have to disclose it but you either have a QR code or link to a website for more information on the ingredients. You have to research it in order to know.

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Old Business:

Educational Program:

There were 29 present for the Bee and Butterfly gardens discussion. It was a very good turnout. Next Monday evening at the Community Garden we are doing a hands on IPM (Integrative Pest Management) that everyone is invited to. You will learn how to take care of specific species of insects in the garden.

Next month there will be an expert on heritage breed tomatoes and some of the things they are doing to get a new breed next year. Also, on the second Monday in September we will have Stacy Luke talk about “Improving Your Soil”. The fall and winter series has yet to be set up but Elaine will be talking with Amy about it and getting feedback.

Community Garden:

Elaine states that things are growing and that she has seen a decrease in rose chafers. Japanese beetles and squash bugs are making an appearance. She states she has been lucky to get the eggs off her plants and hasn’t seen anymore since. Tomatoes and zucchini have been harvested. Cabbages are forming heads and some have been harvested.

Josh Marshall inquired how the food pantry is doing and whether they are getting enough vegetables. He states that Adam Crete has zucchini and summer squash that he was wondering about donating somewhere. Elaine gave a contact name of Alyssa at Merrimack County. Our food pantry has delivery on Friday. They have a list of produce they want and don’t want. The Penacook Church could be contacted as well. Josh says he was thinking in terms of a weekly delivery. Bill Bevans suggested contacting Rhoda Hardy for more information.

Josh asked if anyone knows farmers who are generous and looking to donate that the NH Farm Bureau Young Farmer’s Committee. They will be making a pick-up of produce for the “Harvest for All Program” on August 15, 2016. Last year they collected over 5,000 pounds of fresh produce over two days to donate to the NH Food Bank.

Elaine asked if Josh might be willing to do a piece for the Garden Newsletter.

New Business:

A few members raised concern about the new town Yard Sale Ordinance and whether this type of permit requirement could potentially be required in order to sell on farms. Discussion ensued about the Yard Sale Ordinance. Bruce Crawford stated he thinks that farmers are protected.

Elaine briefly discussed the Planning Board meeting this month and the NH DOT guest. She suggested reading the Planning Board minutes for more information about his discussion.

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Josh suggested that local businesses could buy a sticker that says, “We Support Local Agriculture”. Bill Bevans mentioned that businesses want to buy local, but that no one has enough of what they need when they need it. He went on to say that if businesses buy local during the summer, their wholesale suppliers may charge them more during the other months.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bills Bevans, seconded by Angela Swyers. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps