

**Town of Boscawen, NH
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**MEETING MINUTES – Final
Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

Commissioners present: Elaine Clow, Acting Chair, William Bevans, Tina Larochele, Angela Swyers, John Porter (Alternate voting)

Commissioners absent: John Keegan, Josh Marshall

Alternate Commissioners absent (Ex Officio): Roger Sanborn, and Alternate Commissioner Ken Marshall

Also present Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director.

Acting Chair Clow called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The roll call was taken. John Porter was appointed to voting member this evening.

No guests were present. No new Members were presented.

Draft Minutes

Alan Hardy stated that they do not have draft minutes. They haven't been typed out. Dropbox is the system that they use and somehow the system didn't work. He is hoping to have them for next meeting.

Accountant Report

Alan Hardy explained he has no concern about the expenditures for the garden. The administrative number that you had before is quite a bit lower and the community garden money is much higher. The gross budget that you have, the \$2,000 remains unchanged. What you do have is the QuickBooks sheet in the packet and the last sheet is the breakdown by account. You also see your income starting to come in and the expenses in the month going out. That's the current picture for this account.

Elaine Clow said that a lot of the plot fees have not been added in so far. Alan Hardy said that's the funds showing up to May 9, 2016. She believes they have 42 plots rented. They have an enthusiastic group of gardeners this year.

Discussion ensued on who signs off if expenditures come in. Alan Hardy noted that encumbrance of money can only happen when or if they acquire something that you know you want to get at that point in time or get a contract with someone that you will be working with.

Land Use Happenings:

Alan Hardy stated that most items being dealt with right now are due to the fact that there is a lot of building going on. There will be building going on for California Fields. There are also duplexes being built across from Ross Express. California Fields will be 38 connected 2 bedroom homes. The Dupont Group is building 6 duplexes, which will be 3 bedroom and they will be rentals. More discussion ensued with regard to building growth. Alan Hardy noted that the Dollar General also wanted to purchase a lot on King Street but they need go

before the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He explained what they would be asking of the Zoning Board. If they are approved, they would then have to go before the Planning Board. Alan Hardy noted that the Agricultural Commission is welcome to make a comment regarding this development.

John Porter asked Alan Hardy to update them on the poultry use coming up. Alan Hardy said he's been up there to visit Tom quite frequently. He said that the building is quite long. He said he's been pouring the concrete for the foundation. He said he has approximately 1300 lineal feet of frost wall. He feels that by the time fall comes he should have his first batch of laying hens. Elaine Clow asked about what kind of view is up there. Alan Hardy said it is beautiful.

John Porter asked Alan Hardy about Young's project on River Road. Alan Hardy said he hadn't seen anything. John said that once in a while some top soil is being sold. John asked if there is a machine shop going in across from the Tannery. Alan Hardy said Walter bought that property for his two sons. He is going to have a workshop down on the lower level and 2 apartments upstairs. Alan Hardy stated that at the old Silver Farm Adam Mock stripped the roof off and they will put up new trusses. Structurally the barn is in nice shape.

John Porter said that he thinks some day they may see Adam Crete build a solar complex.

Elaine Clow asked what was happening on the lot south of the county jail. Alan Hardy said it would be a single family home. They have a camper on there now. They intend to be building a working farm which will turn into a 4 bedroom bed & breakfast. It is a 76 acre parcel.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Bevans made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Elaine Clow and passed by a unanimous vote.

Educational Program:

Nada Haddad is coming in June to talk about bringing agricultural products to market. They discussed how EBT card money could be used for farmer's market purchases. Franklin has a program where they have a bus that picks up people and brings them to the farmer's market.

Community Garden

60 plots have been laid out. The irrigation is in and fertilizer has been passed out. Alan Hardy said that there are tools still down at the Dorval House. He said there are pallets and odds and ends there. Alan said that everything needs to be moved out of there. Elaine Clow said to deliver it to Works Department. Alan said he'd speak with Jeff to see if it was wanted or if it needed to go to the dump. If it's not wanted, it will get thrown out.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

Bill Bevans did a survey of restaurants. There was a little interest in the local produce. Restaurant 1 bought peppers. They bought tomatoes from Canterbury but they are too expensive to buy there. Restaurant 2 buys peppers and likes them because they last longer even though they are more expensive. Restaurant 3 buys corn and other items from local farmers. Restaurant 4 doesn't buy local as they didn't know there was anyone around. They would but it would have to be reasonably priced. Restaurant 5 doesn't buy local produce. No one is pushing

the fact that there is local to buy from. Elaine Clow said the type of restaurants in town is not gourmet, high end restaurants. John Porter said that the produce needs to be available more than just once in a while. Elaine Clow said that with Winthrop House and Avaloch Farm in the area, they may purchase local. Alan Hardy said he spoke with Katy of Winthrop Carter House and they are hoping to be open in July. They want to keep everything as local as possible. Elaine Clow said that at the Historical Society that asked for something that shows local activities to do for people that come to stay for these weddings, etc. Alan Hardy said to keep track of places and events that may be helpful to add to the website and let him know when the new website gets turned on around June 1st.

Other:

Bill Bevans said there was a clipping that he wanted to bring in that showed a town in Maine that passed a law saying that they didn't have to obey the federal laws to help the farmer's out. The town is trying to get passed in a lot more towns in Maine.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tina Larochele, seconded by Elaine Clow and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2016 @ 7PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife*