

Town of Boscawen, NH

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

June 9, 2016 7pm - Final

Members Present: Elaine Clow, Vice-Chair, Bill Bevans, John Porter

Members Absent: John Keegan, Tina Larochelle, Angela Swyers, Josh Marshall,

Member Ex-Officio Absent: Roger Sanborn

Alternate Member Absent: Ken Marshall

Others present: Alan Hardy, Planning and Development Director

Due to there not being a quorum present, an official meeting was not called to order. With only three members present, topics can be discussed, however, it cannot be an official meeting and nothing can be voted on.

Alan says that the bylaws say you can have 5-7 members. If a situation arose that someone stepped down, you could drop the commission size to 5 members and 1 alternate and operate with as few as 3 people. As the commission is configured with 7 members, we need 4 to conduct business.

Previous meeting minute edits were not discussed due to the quorum.

Land Use Law – Part III

- Vice Chair Clow stated the Senate and House have agreed on the Agriculture and Agritourism bill and it has gone to the Governor for signature. As of today it hasn't been signed yet.
- Forster v. Town of Henniker was discussed. Alan states the town is now sitting at the defendant's table with Mr. Forster. Abutters are appealing the town's decision to allow Mr. Forster to run his events in 2016. Alan suspects that it is going to get a hearing very quickly. Alan went on to say that he has heard that the neighbors are going to cite "Fisher v. Dover" in their appeal, which essentially says this matter has already been decided.

Traditional Commercial and Recreational Fishing Protection Act – RSA 674:67-70

- Alan states that this essentially protects the necessary activities on land that come from commercial and recreational fishing. It's much like the protection afforded to Agriculture. If you bring your boat, equipment and fish home and it smells "fishy" that's part of the process.
- Vice-Chair Clow said one thing the Town of Boscawen is lacking are "fish farms" for trout fishing where people can pay a certain amount of money to fish and take their catch for dinner. She asked why this something like this hasn't developed here. Alan states there was a study undertaken when they were trying to figure out what to do with the Groveton Mill Buildings. There was a professor from SUNY that was putting a proposal together to use the mill for Aquaculture. SUNY thought that NY City and NJ could not continue to survive and provide food for the number of people that they have. SUNY wondered if the river system in New England could be a means of transporting food south to NY and NJ and provide NH businesses an opportunity to feed people. He hasn't heard how the case turned out.

Alan states that someone has purchased the old "Holmes Farm" location just south of the county facility on the east side and intends to make a working farm operational and then create a Bed and Breakfast which will use the farm as an experience he offers. Alan also stated that he sees good opportunities with Kate and Colm Brophy with the Winthrop Carter House. They have hosted events where they are going to

suggest vendors for an “all town event”. Old Home Day is doing a joint venture with them to welcome them to town and show people the capability of the Winthrop Carter House. They will be hosting our Artist’s Reception for Old Home Day as well.

The Concord Monitor article about California Fields was briefly discussed. Alan states the foundation is in. It was be called 1 Riverside Place. They expect that building construction work will begin shortly. Blasting has been completed so it should quiet down significantly.

The site across from Ross Express should be cleared and building should begin shortly as the final paperwork has been submitted to the town.

The Dollar General application will be coming back for further discussion at the ZBA. Alan expects at least a couple meetings before the board is ready to entertain motions. Since the discussions are held in a Public Meeting of the board, anyone can attend.

Vice Chair Clow shared that the Northern Rail Trail is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Grant money is available for those interested in getting food to market. It can sponsor such things as refrigeration units. There is a substantial amount of money available to Vermont and New Hampshire but no one has been applying from New Hampshire. The contact is Keith Farrell from Boscawen. NH.USDA.GOV which is the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Community Garden:

Bee and Butterfly Gardens are coming up next month in the first series of talks. If anyone has any suggestions for advertising to get the word out please let them know. We are looking for a better turn-out. John Porter stated that he thinks the lack of people coming has to do with the season.

Vice Chair Clow states in September there will be a class on building soils. The instructor will be announced at a later date.

Financials:

- Financials reviewed by members present
- Alan suggested that income money may be used to purchase something – Ex: Shed if the commission makes that request of the BOS.
- A request can made to the Board of Selectman, approved and spent in the calendar year or approved and contracted to carry over as an encumbrance.

There was no new business to discuss.

The question was raised if the commission should be looking for new members. Alan states that there have been new members volunteering lately.

Discussion completed at 8pm.

Notes respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps