

Town of Boscawen

Agricultural Commission Meeting – Final
Boscawen Municipal Complex
September 8, 2016 at 7pm

Members Present: Elaine Clow – Vice-Chair, Bill Bevens, John Porter, Tina Larochelle

Member Ex-Officio Absent: Roger Sanborn

Members Absent: John Keegan - Chair, Ken Marshall, Angela Swyers, Josh Marshall

Others Present: Bruce Crawford, Katie Phelps – Recording Secretary

Vice-Chair Elaine Clow called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a voting board.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes as revised made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Bill Bevens. All in favor.

Accountant's report:

- Administration - \$155.91 spent from \$400 budget YTD
- Community Garden - \$388.80 spent from \$1300 budget YTD
- Physical Improvements - \$0 spent from \$300 budget YTD
- Garden Plot Fee Income YTD - \$540

Motion to accept the Accountant's report made by Tina Larochelle, seconded by Bill Bevens. All in favor.

Land Use Updates:

Bruce Crawford said the Town of Boscawen received a grant for the King Street corridor to amend the zoning. There will be interviews conducted for input.

Avaloch Farm Music Institute is adding on a new dorm.

There will be a three lot subdivision on Knowlton and Corn Hill Roads. There will be another proposal for the interior lot coming at some point. We aren't certain how many potential house lots will be there.

Site Plan regulations were amended from a 100 foot wetland setback to 25 feet. It was only in Subdivision Regulations but will likely get put into the Zoning Ordinance at some point.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance is in the works.

Merrimack County Farm is renovating the old McKenna Jail into a treatment facility. There will also be a corridor connecting the new and old jail facility with a wood-fired furnace in the middle. The corridor will be used to transport food from one facility to the other.

New Business:

- Town of Boscawen Website:
 - Discussion will be moved to October meeting when Alan Hardy is present.
- New Projects:
 - John Porter made the suggestion of doing a group project.

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- Placemats for restaurants list Boscawen farms
- “Buy it in Boscawen”
- Agricultural Directory

John mentioned that the new hen house put us on the map. We have a very active agricultural group and it would be nice to keep that going.

Elaine Clow suggested extending an invitation to Tom Giovagnoli to become part of the Agricultural Commission. John Porter agreed.

Elaine would like to see an inventory of the agricultural assets in Boscawen and what are they producing. Possibly a map of locations. She did mention that some may not want people visiting but there are others that wouldn't mind. Discussion ensued regarding local agricultural locations. John Porter suggested a directory as the next project. Elaine and Tina will brainstorm for next month's meeting.

Old Business:

Educational Program:

- Elaine states that 30 people attended Heritage tomatoes in August.
- Stacey Luke will be doing Improving Soils this month – 12 are signed up.
- October hasn't been finalized yet – thinking ginger and mushrooms.
- Elaine will be sitting down with Amy to decide winter lineup.

Community Garden:

- Things are winding down
- Harvest Supper is September 14th at 5pm – Jeff and Judi Abbe's house

Other:

Using leftover money for a storage shed was brought up. John Porter will check into a single garage stall for the storage of garden tools that was sitting on a trailer at the county farm at one point. He isn't sure if it is even an option but will check into it and bring back information.

Elaine offered a few handouts:

- FDA issued draft guidance under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act for animal foods and the classification of activities for farms and facilities dated 8/24/16.
- Treated lumber – USDA – Organic farmers and what can be used for treated lumber.

Commission suggested recruiting some new members/alternates to make sure we have quorum.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Bevans, seconded by Tina Larochelle. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Next meeting of the Commission will be October 13, 2016 at 7pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Phelps

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