

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes – Final  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
August 9, 2018 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Tina Larochelle

Others Present: Alan Hardy-Co-Administrator, Linda Chandonnet – Recording Secretary

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Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

Chair Keegan introduced Julie Fournier as officially a new Commission member.

**Review and Acceptance of prior meeting's minutes:**

Chair Keegan asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes from 07/12/2018. The following changes were made: Line 84 – Change January to July.

**Motion made to accept the July minutes by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Marshall as amended. All in favor, none opposed.**

Accountant Report was reviewed by the board with no comments.

**Motion made to accept the Accountant Report by Mr. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Bevans. All in favor, none opposed.**

**Meeting with Senator Watters:**

Chair Keegan began by saying some board members were able to meet with Senator Watters and he asked for a report. Mr. Porter stated we have the right person as Senator Watters has worked with RSA 79E which has similarities to what we want to do for Agriculture in New Hampshire. Senator Watters liked our concept which shows good intentions for helping agriculture in the State. He thought it would have bipartisan support but there will always be people wondering who is being protecting. There will also be questions about costs. Senator Watters suggested characterizing the costs as deferred. This language is direct and inclusive enough for whomever is governing at the town level to make tax related decisions with leeway to forego taxes completely; defer them for a period of time; or, repay local government on a specific schedule determined by the municipal authority's. As such, this would be enabling legislation. Mr. Porter reiterated that Senator Watters was positive about the concept and thinks our timing is good. Senator Watters is willing to support the endeavor and look for additional bipartisan support in the Legislature. Mr. Marshall added that the Legislature prefer ranges rather open funding rangers. Mr. Hardy said with the deferral the town does not have a downside you are postponing payment but not foregoing income or imposing on other taxpayers. In most cases, at the end of the day, payments are delayed. Mr. Marshall added that N.H. Farm Bureau is going to try to get behind us on this matter and will invite a Boscawen Agriculture Commission member to speak at their Policy Development Meeting

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on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This should enable the N.H. Farm Bureau Board of Directors to be comfortable supporting this idea and enable Rob Johnson to begin his work on the text. Rob has agreed to draft a mock-up to provide written basis for a broader discussion of our concept. Senator Watters cannot engage the Senate staff to draft a mock up until December. However, if we give Senator Watters our draft to take to the Senate staff in December it could become the base from which the Senate staff work. Mr. Marshall spoke about Eric Sawtelle who is the Chair of their Policy Development Committee, Representative Howard Pearl and Senator French as key people to contact for early bipartisan support.

Chair Keegan would like to ask the Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Shawn Jasper to spend part of the day in Boscawen for an agricultural tour to include Giovagnoli's and Crete's Farms, as well as John Porter's and Josh Marshall's operations, ending with ice cream at Richardson's. Chair Keegan asked Commission members for their thoughts and to respond to his email which will have dates and times for the Commissioners' visit.

**Action Plan:** Chair Keegan will contact the Commissioner Jasper to see when he is available.

**Annual Award:**

Chair Keegan has spoken to Tom Gilmore, chair of the Conservation Commission, who also thinks an annual set of awards from the Agriculture and Conservation Commissions is a good idea. Each Commission would nominate a volunteer and a professional for consideration by a committee made up of the two Commissions. The awards would be given during Old Home Week. Mr. Gilmore, once he knows this Commission supports the idea will talk with Mr. Cousens about representing the Conservation Commission. Chair Keegan asked the members if anyone would like to volunteer from the Agriculture Commission. It would involve a few meetings and some dedicated time.

**Land Use Happenings:**

Chair Keegan reported that the Water Precinct and Conservation Commission have come to an agreement on the price for 25 acres of Precinct property fronting Walker Pond. The property has 2 access points to the pond. Mr. Hardy added that, hopefully, the purchase will move along. The only pending item is the possibility of using Walker Pond for the municipal water supply in the future.

Chair Keegan mentioned a potential conservation easement for a 110 acre parcel owned by the Morrill family fronting Water and Long Street that the Conservation Commission is pursuing. The appraisal has been done and is being reviewed by both parties. The Conservation Commission is looking for a partner to raise the \$300,000 to \$400,000 needed to complete the transaction. The collaborator may be the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest. Once completed, the easement will protect all the footage on Water and Long Streets owned by the Morrill's. There will also be a corridor of protected property from Walker Pond to Long Street.

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**Ken Marshall Memorial:**

Josh Marshall showed the Commissioners a draft copy and proposed wording of the presentation for the Ken Marshall Memorial Garden. It will be a framed keepsake for the Marshall Family. Mr. Marshall asked the members for their input and suggestions. Discussion ensued with several specific suggested revisions.

**Action Plan:** Mr. Marshall will contact a printing company about the layout details and make the necessary changes by Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, and send everyone a copy for final review.

Chair Keegan asked Mr. Marshall to prepare a short write up about Ken Marshall for the presentation during Boscawen Old Home Week. Mr. Marshall agreed.

**Action Plan:** Mr. Marshall will prepare a short write up about Ken Marshall.

**Community Garden:**

Chair Keegan has talked to Mr. Abbe and they have agreed to separate the James Bodie Memorial from the Ken Marshall Memorial. Mr. Abbe is handling the James Bodie Memorial process with the family. Mr. Bodie's daughter is making a financial contribution to support the Community Garden.

**Commission Membership:**

Chair Keegan stated that Mr. Marshall's reappointment will be coming up in September He inquired if Mr. Marshall would like to serve again. Mr. Marshall agreed.

**Motion made to recommend to the BOS reappoint of Mr. Marshall as an Agriculture Commissioner by Mr. Bevans and seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor, none opposed.**

**Old Business:**

Mr. Hardy reported on the status of the Collins Barn Easement. The original proposed retrofit for the barn doors did not work but several viable ideas have emerged. At this point, the BOS is awaiting a viable proposal and payment of a legal fee that is the responsibility of the petitioner. Discussion ensued but no action taken.

Mr. Marshall announced that the N.H. Horse Council is trying to start an Agriculture Commission Group. Josie Best from Unity is trying to recruit someone(s) to speak in her group.

The next meeting of the AG Commission will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

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

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The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Chandonnet*