

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 11th, 2022, at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, John Porter-Vice Chair, Ralph Odell, and Gary Tillman

Staff Present: PCD Clerk Kara Gallagher

Absent- Bill Bevans, Roger Sanborn, Julie Fournier-Alternate & Tatyanna Wunschel-Alternate

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call complete.

Chair Keegan sent Ms. Wunschel an email, encouraging her to attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Wunschel responded to the email stating she has a job on Thursday nights that conflicts with the meeting times. Chair Keegan suggested in a return email, that he could speak with Ms. Wunschel's supervisor in order to accommodate her civic and agricultural education. Ms. Wunschel did not respond to the email. Discussion ensued.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes: Mr. Tillman requested one change to line 27, strikethrough 'the' at the end of the sentence.

Vice Chair Porter requested one change, line 68, change last sentence to read '...the Highway View Farm may have 20+ registered vehicles.'

Mr. Tillman requested one change to line 72, change 'opined' to 'mentioned'.

Mr. Tillman requested one change to line 99, change 'in' to '...is ongoing or if Community input...'

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the 07.14.22 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report: Chair Keegan said Finance Director Kate Merrill added an extra column to the Financial Report. It displays a list of expenditures with the purchase dates.

Last month, Commissioners passed a motion to expend \$300 from the Community Garden line item. Chair Keegan reported that it is a designated fund. For that reason we must redo the motion to take funds from the Agricultural Commission's Operating Fund.

Vice Chair Porter motioned to use up to \$300 from the AgComm Operating Fund to buy prizes for the Old Home Day Sheep Contest. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report through 08.11.22 as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Land Use Happenings: Chair Keegan reported the Pustizzi Property was approved to move forward. PCD Clerk Gallagher has copies of Pustizzi's paperwork should any Commissioner like one. Vice Chair Porter asked if there was discussion about a common septic tank. PCD Clerk Gallagher said Mr. Pustizzi would like to put individual septic systems at each site.

Old Business: Mr. Odell will track Commissioners Tasks for August.

Master Plan: Chair Keegan updated the Master Plan status. PCD Clerk Gallagher and Chair Keegan reconciled what they could in terms of common data to update farms and current use status with Rack Card information. The Master Plan will be going to Planning Board this month for approval. Mr. Tillman pointed out the need to review the Research and Objectives Section where there are references to Maps A, B and C. In the course of a discussion Commissioners realized the Plan has another section where the maps reside. That section was not reviewed due to financial constraints. If the maps are included in the subsequent section, no changes need to be made. PCD Clerk Gallagher will check with Planning and Community Development Director Kellee Easler. Mr. Tillman asked about page 8, Table IV was mentioned but not displayed. PCD Clerk Gallagher will double check the maps, appendixes, and tables.

Community/Herb Garden: Chair Keegan said they've been trying to post an article in the *Newsvine* about the herb garden for the past 2 months. Hopefully it will be in the next *Newsvine*. The objective is to tell the public that the herb garden is open to all. Mr. Tillman suggested posting the herb garden handout on Facebook. PCD Clerk Gallagher will do so. Chair Keegan updated members on the Community Garden. The biggest challenge is timely produce harvesting by gardeners. Past educational efforts have included encouraging new gardeners to start small and encouraged gardeners to take their excess to the food pantry or allow NH Gleans to harvest their excess produce. He said Mr. Jeff Abbe contacted Ruth Smith, his Master Gardener mentor and program leader, to discuss these ideas and other related topics. Discussion ensued.

Old Home Day Sheep: Chair Keegan updated members about the Sheep Competition for Old Home Day. The OHD Committee has designated \$200 for the contest winners. The 1st place winner will get a \$100 gift card, 2nd place gets \$50 and two 3rd place winners will get \$25 each. Vice Chair Porter asked how AgComm's \$300 donation will be used. PCD Clerk Gallagher said the idea is an AgComm gift basket filled with NH Farm products for each of the winners. In the meantime, she sent letters to multiple local farms and businesses asking for donations. She is awaiting responses. Vice Chair Porter suggested asking Apple Hill Farm. PCD Clerk Gallagher will do so. She said Mr. Abbe is donating maple syrup. If she doesn't hear back from other businesses by next week, she will purchase the prizes using the AgComm allocation.

Welcome Sign: Vice Chair Porter hasn't had time to review the current condition of the Penacook Welcome sign. Mr. Odell said the Franklin sign is fading but isn't in bad condition. No further discussion.

Routes 3 & 4 Planning: Chair Keegan spoke with Select Board Chair Lorrie Carey about the planning situation at the junction of Routes 3 & 4. She said NHDOT is not in the design phase. They are still gathering information and surveying. Chair Keegan said Ms. Carey will be keeping an eye on Central NH Regional Planning Commission and NHDOT. She will notify the Ag Commission as soon as they have an opportunity for a place at the table to discuss their ideas and concerns.

Future AgComm Projects: Chair Keegan continued the 'New Project' discussion from last meeting. The last discussion lead into how they could address the traffic issue on King Street. Ms. Fournier previously noted that traffic was horrible for farmers driving farm equipment. Vice Chair Porter proposed having two yellow caution signs with a tractor symbol on it. It would read 'Yield to Farm Equipment'. He suggested placing one at the end of Routes 3 & 4 as well as King Street. Chair Keegan will contact the Town's Deputy Moderator at NHDOT.

New Business: Chair Keegan stated the 'Please Compost' sign is up at the landfill entrance. He said the 'Please' doesn't show up well. Vice Chair Porter said Mrs. Sue Porter is good at outlining and previously fixed the seasonal 'Corn' signs. He suggested asking Mrs. Porter to do a white outline to make the word stand out. All concurred. Chair Keegan will notify Public Works Director Dean Hollins of the plans.

Mr. Tillman asked if they could do something to help facilitate the gathering of excess vegetables from local gardens. Discussion ensued. PCD Clerk Gallagher suggested putting a basket at the NH Gleans plot. The basket would be for Community Gardeners to deposit excess vegetables. Then, NH Gleans could deliver them to the food pantry. Chair Keegan will speak with Mr. Abbe about the idea. Chair Keegan reported Mr. Abbe is working to start a newsletter at the Garden. Mr. Tillman suggested publishing newsletter on Facebook as well.

Preservation Alliance Membership: Chair Keegan asked Commissioners to renew the Preservation Alliance membership.

Mr. Tillman motioned to renew the Agricultural Commission's Preservation Alliance membership. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Tasks for August:

- PCD Clerk Gallagher will work on gift basket donations for the OHD Sheep Cutout prizes.
- PCD Clerk Gallagher will follow up with Ms. Adele Sanborn on the date and time of Vice Chair Porter's Barn presentation.
- PCD Clerk Gallagher will double check the maps, appendixes, and tables for the Master Plan.
- PCD Clerk Gallagher will obtain copies of Mr. Pustizzi's paperwork.
- Vice Chair Porter will review the Penacook Welcome Sign.
- Chair Keegan will contact the Town's Deputy Moderator about Tractor signs. He will also talk to Mr. Abbe about putting a basket at NH Gleans plot for excess vegetables.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 8th, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Tillman. Seconded by Vice Chair Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner