

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, John Porter-Vice Chair, Roger Sanborn, Gary Tillman, Bill Bevans, Ralph Odell, Julie Fournier-Alternate & Lorrie Carey-Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Kara Gallagher—Planning & Community Development Assistant & Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning and Community Development Director

Absent: Tatyanna Wunschel-Alternate

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call complete.

Review and Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Odell noted one correction, line 31, change 'Morrell's' to 'Morrill's'.
- Chair Keegan requested one change, line 85, capitalize '...Pustizzi Farm's'.
- Chair Keegan requested one change, line 88, change '...Food Stand' to '...Farm Stand'.
- Vice Chair Porter noted one change, line 117, change meeting date to read 'Tuesday February 14th, 2023 @ 6:30 p. m.'

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the 12.08.22 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Public Hearing:

Bylaw Amendments: Deputy Planning and Community Development Director O'Brien read the public hearing into the record. The public hearing is being held to amend the current procedures and bylaws.

Chair Keegan opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

No public comment.

Mr. Tillman noted there was no public notice for the public hearing held today, January 10th, 2023. Mr. Bevans said it is only listed under the agenda on the Town website. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien clarified that this public hearing was a continuation. They do not repost continuations.

The lawyers have reviewed and provided changes to the procedures and bylaws. Ex-Officio Carey requested one change under section 1: Membership, change ‘...shall designate one selectman’ to ‘...shall designate one selectperson’.

Chair Keegan closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Agricultural Commission Procedures and Bylaws with the change noted. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Land Use Happenings: Deputy PCD Director O’Brien stated they have a 4-lot subdivision application that is being continued until next month. The property is located on High Street. The subdivision on Eagle Perch Drive has started building on one of the lots. Deputy PCD Director O’Brien noted they may take out another building permit. They can have only four building permits at a time. No further discussion.

Financial Report:

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report through 01.10.23 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

- January Tasks: Vice Chair Porter will track the January tasks.
- Membership: Chair Keegan updated the Committee on Ms. Tatyanna Wunschel’s membership. Due to 3 absences without notification, Chair Keegan sent her a letter, respectfully asking her to resign. There has been no response. Mr. Tillman asked if the Commissioners could remove Ms. Wunschel based on Bylaws since they are updating them. Chair Keegan explained the bylaws require notification. PCD Assistant Gallagher will follow up on how long they are required to wait for a response.
- Annual Report: Chair Keegan finalized the Annual Report and sent it to Town Clerk Nicole Hoyt.
- AgCom Finances: There has been prior discussion on the retention of the Community Garden rents for the Agricultural Commission’s work rather than placing the unused balance in the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. Chair Keegan shared with each Commissioner an email from Finance Director Kate Merrill prior to the meeting. There appears to be an opportunity to remedy this issue. Chair Keegan will schedule a meeting with FD Merrill next week to discuss. He will notify the Commissioners so they can participate in the discussion should they wish.

Vice Chair Porter motioned to approve Chair Keegan following up on creating an Agricultural Fund for the Agricultural Commission. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

- Thank You Letters: Mr. Sanborn wrote Thank You letters to Ms. Nancy Towle and Mr. Jeff Abbe. The letters were sent out and received by both recipients. Both recipients expressed their thanks to various Commission members.
- Draft Horse: Mr. Sanborn contacted the Draft Horse association, and they were willing to participate. His ideas, still in flux may include: a plowing contest and demonstrations about poultry and wildlife from Fish and Game. Mr. Sanborn asked for a decision on the date and location as soon as possible. He suggested doing it either at the Community Garden or on his property. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners would like to discuss these ideas with the Old Home Day Committee to ensure the event(s) can be held Old Home Day. If the OHD Committee agrees, they will propose to have the Draft Horse event at Mr. Sanborn's on August 26th, from 8:30am to 10:30am. Mr. Tillman will present the proposal to the OHD Committee at their next meeting. Vice Chair Porter clarified for Mr. Sanborn that Commissioners will provide the personnel to support the event. The Draft Horse Association will not have to.
- Other: Mr. Ralph Odell presented another idea for Agricultural promotion. Cheshire County Conservation Commission posted in their bulletin a promotion to visit various farms to learn how they manage their business. Mr. Odell said they had a series of farms listed that people could drive to and tour.
- Ex-Officio Carey read an article on the 'Right to Repair' and asked for clarification from Commissioners. Mr. Tillman reported that on the Federal level, only John Deere has extended the 'Right to Repair'. Chair Keegan noted a bill had been proposed for 'Right to Repair' in the last NH Legislature but was defeated.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve moving the March meeting date to Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Ex-Officio Carey. All in favor. None opposed.

Next Meeting: Monday February 14th, 2023 @ 6:30 p. m.

Ex-Officio Carey motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Sanborn. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Gardner