

**Town of Boscawen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 11, 2024, at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, John Porter – Vice Chair, Gary Tillman, Ralph Odell & Bill Bevans – Ex-Officio

Members Absent: Julie Fournier – Alternate

Staff Present: Kara Gallagher – Planning & Community Development Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Chair Keegan opened the public meeting at 6:30 p.m. and completed roll call.

Minutes:

Chair Keegan requested one change to line 114 – Change “BES” to “Boscawen Elementary School”.

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

Financial Report:

Mr. Tillman said he was still having trouble understanding the report. He said the bank balance at the end of the prior month (\$1242.57) was also the balance as of today. Chair Keegan asked why we needed today’s balance. Mr. Tillman said that the balance as of last month was also the balance as of today but was wondering where the \$53.62 under Revenues was coming from or going to. He wondered if that was included in the bank balance. He believes there is a financial number missing. Chair Keegan clarified that Mr. Tillman would like to see the end of the month balance in the report. Mr. Tillman said that was correct. Vice Chair Porter wondered if the book work was internal, and the bank balance was by itself. Mr. Tillman said he expects the revenues to go to the bank balance. Vice Chair Porter would like to know the answer to that question. Ex-Officio Bevans said the report shows the balance in the AgComm account and the difference would be the interest. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tillman showed an example of a format he’d like to see. Ex-Officio Bevans will discuss the report with Finance Director Kate Merrill to provide clarification.

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the Financial Report through 3/11/24. Seconded by Mr. Odell. All in favor. None opposed.

Mr. Tillman requested to change the format of the Financial Report for April.

Old Business:

Boscawen Community Garden Mini Plots: Mr. Jeff Abbe will contact Mr. Odell to discuss the BCG mini plots. Ms. Emma Richmond-Boudewyns and Mr. Abbe will make sure they’re on the same page as well.

Pending Action Item Updates:

- Chair Keegan will discuss creating mini plots with Mr. Jeff Abbe at the BCG – Completed.
- Chair Keegan will meet with Mrs. Adele Sanborn in March to discuss the Old Home Day Contest judging – Not yet completed.
- Chair Keegan will discuss the creation of a logo with Mrs. Sanborn – Not yet completed.
- Chair Keegan will ask the Market Manager of Fresh Start Farms to participate in the EDC farmers' market – Completed.
- Mr. Tillman will ask Mr. & Mrs. Bourdais to participate in the EDC farmers' market – Not yet completed.
- Vice Chair Porter will ask Highway View Farms to participate in the EDC farmer's market – Not yet completed.

Economic Development Committee Pumpkin Ride/Walk Farmer's Market: Chair Keegan discussed Fresh Start Farms setting up a booth at the EDC Pumpkin Ride/Walk on October 5th. Ms. Richmond-Boudewyns is looking forward to doing so, knowing they did well last year.

Chair Keegan spoke with Ms. Nancy Towle about the photo background that was set up by Black Forest Nursery. It was a beautiful set-up. Hopefully, it will be offered again this year.

Vice Chair Porter requested the EDC Pumpkin Ride/Walk stay on the agenda each month. Mr. Odell thought this event was a great way to make Boscawen residents aware of happenings in agriculture. Vice Chair Porter agreed and said it is difficult to have a self-sustaining event for agriculture.

New Business:

Citizen Suggestions for Welcome to Boscawen Signs: A Concord resident sent an email to Town Administrator Katie Phelps and offered his artistic critique for the current Welcome to Boscawen signs. There were two photos showing what the signs could look like using different colored paint on the posts, as well as redefining the letters as several have been filled in over time. Mr. Tillman didn't like either color scheme but thought he did a good job redefining the letters. Chair Keegan said the Commission wouldn't be replacing the signs any time soon but thought keeping a file with comments from the general public could be helpful when the time comes. PCD Coordinator Gallagher offered to start a folder to keep any suggestions in. Vice Chair Porter said he and Mrs. Sue Porter can begin to incorporate some of the suggestions when they touch up the signs this summer.

NH Preservation Alliance Old House and Barn Expo: Vice Chair Porter said this expo will be at Saint Anselm College on March 16 & 17. It will showcase restorations and renovations to old houses and barns. He said if anyone was interested, he had some coupons for money off the tickets.

Other Business: Chair Keegan felt the Commission's Calendar was completed and mentioned the garden applications were the only item for April. PCD Coordinator Gallagher said the applications will be live on the website on March 12th, in the library, and at the entryway of the Municipal Facility.

Mr. Odell discussed the guidelines for making various products following up on observations made during the maple presentation last month. He pointed to an article in the *Market Bulletin* about a couple who make about 1,500 gallons a year are this year's award winner for the best maple syrup in the State. They make 10 distinct maple products besides syrup. Mr. Odell asked where he could find more information about

related regulations. Vice Chair Porter said Mary Choate with Extension would be a good contact. Chair Keegan also suggested visiting the maple producers' website.

Pending Tasks:

- Chair Keegan will meet with Mrs. Adele Sanborn in March to discuss the Old Home Day Contest judging.
- Chair Keegan will discuss the creation of a logo with Mrs. Sanborn.
- Mr. Tillman will ask Mr. & Mrs. Bourdais to participate in the EDC farmers' market.
- Vice Chair Porter will ask Highway View Farms to participate in the EDC farmer's market.
- PCD Coordinator Gallagher will create a folder for the Welcome to Boscawen sign improvement suggestions.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Porter. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.