

**Town of Boscawen, NH
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Boscawen Municipal Complex**

**MEETING MINUTES – Final
Tuesday, December 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Dr. Gail Devoid, Chair, Ann Dominguez, Tracy Jo Bartlett and Roger Sanborn.

Others present: Kellee Jo Easler, Planning & Development Community Assistant, and Rose Fife, Recording Secretary.

Not present: Ed Cherian Jr., Doug Supry, and Alan Hardy, Planning & Community Development Director

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call by Secretary

Open the public meeting.

Minutes from 11.28.17: A **motion** to approve the Minutes was made by Tracy Jo Bartlett, seconded by Ann Dominguez and passed by a unanimous vote. Roger abstained.

Unfinished Business:

Election of Officers for 2017 – Chair Devoid stated that the election of officers will be put off until after town meeting in March. A **motion** to continue the Election of Officer until after the March town meeting was made by Chair Devoid, seconded by Roger Sanborn and passed by a unanimous vote.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with NH RSA 676:7, I. and the Town of Boscawen Zoning Ordinance, that the **Zoning Board of Adjustment** will meet on **Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 7:00 PM**, in the Boscawen Municipal Complex, 116 North Main St, concerning an Application submitted by **Melanie Welch & Louis Champagne, 6 Baker Street, Boscawen** for a **Special Exception**, for **Four Goats**, concerning **Zoning Ordinance Article IV, Use Regulations, 4.01, Agriculture & Forestry Uses, Agriculture, including the grazing care and keeping of livestock and poultry**, on property owned by **Melanie Welch, 6 Baker Street, Boscawen, NH, Tax Map 183D, Lot 29**, in a **R2** zone.

Testified: Melanie Welch. Louis Champagne. They have 4 Nigerian work goats. They are all males. They are castrated and dehorned. Ms. Welch stated that when she looked at the definition of livestock in the ordinance she didn't think that the special exception applied to them as her goats are pets. They take the goats out for walks and out to play every night. Mr. Hardy approached them one evening and explained that a special exception was needed. Approving this request will not impair the integrity and character of the zoning district and will not be detrimental to public health and welfare. Ms. Welch stated that the goats are probably more trained than any dog. They know commands such as stay, run, walk and go to the bathroom. They go in the car for rides. They are not destructive. They are quiet. They have been castrated so they do not go into rut. They are well contained. They are not a nuisance to the community. The specific site is appropriate as they are completely fenced in. They have outdoor play areas. They cannot get out. They have an indoor space in their garage which is $\frac{3}{4}$ fenced off. Inside that, they have another house they built for them. There will be no diminution of value of surrounding property as they goats are well contained within their property so they are not a nuisance to their neighbors. They have no odor. Mr. Champagne

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said that the neighbors like to stop and watch the goats. There will not be any undue traffic, nuisance or unreasonable hazard. This doesn't even apply to their goats. Occasionally people drive down the street looking to see where the goats live. Maybe one car at a time. There is adequate water supply and sewage system. During the winter they do not muck out the barn to keep the warmth in the barn. In the Spring time they will muck it out. They don't compost the waste but they have family and friends that like it for their gardens for fertilizer. The goat manure has no smell and is not acidic. Ms. Welch submitted photographs of the goats. They are command trained.

Kellee Jo Easler said that AGCOM did a site visit. John Porter and Josh Marshall went out and viewed the site. A report was included in the packet shown to the Board. AGCOM notes that they are in favor of granting the special exception.

Chair Devoid stated that the misunderstanding started when the applicants considered the goat's pets. Ms. Welch said that was correct. Mr. Champagne reiterated that the goats are dehorned and castrated. Ann Dominguez asked them how long they've had them. Ms. Welch said they have had them since June. Chair Devoid asked if they intended to increase the number. Ms. Welch said no. Mr. Champagne said that they will not board goats. Four is the most they will have.

Roger Sanborn noted that the Town of Boscawen is very supportive of agriculture. He's heard very favorable comments regarding their goats.

Abutters in favor: none.

Abutters not in favor: none

Member of the public in favor: none.

Members of the public in opposition: none.

DECISION: A motion to grant the special exception was made by Sanborn with the condition that they have no more than 4 animals total, that they follow the Farm Management Practice and that they revisit the Board in one years' time. The motion was seconded by Tracy Jo Bartlett and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

Other Business: Kellee Jo Easler informed the Board that there was an appeal to the Superior Court by Clow/Newcomb in the case of Dollar General vs. the Town of Boscawen. The town will put together a certified packet to send to legal counsel to be taken care of. The town hasn't officially been served yet. Tracy Jo Bartlett asked if Dollar General can go forward with permits, etc. Kellee Jo Easler said they cannot while they are under appeal.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm was made by Roger Sanborn, seconded by Tracy Jo Bartlett and passed by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Fife