

## AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah M Silk, Chair; Lawreen Strauch, Vice-Chair; David Strauch; Marge Strunk; David Rodgers; Macy Gotthardt

EXCUSED: Katy Peternel, member; Kurt DeVlyder, alternate; Wendy Rodgers, (member advised by David @ meeting)

ABSENT: Dave Senecal, BOS liaison

I. Approve Minutes of 3-2-23:

Sarah Silk, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:45 PM. She confirmed that all members except David Rodgers had attended Primex harassment training the previous Friday. When HR notifies Sarah of an evening time slot, she will advise David.

Macy Gotthardt, alternate, was asked to sit for Wendy Rodgers.

As the members were settling in, the membership list was handed out and a correction was made to Dave Rodgers phone number. All other information appears correct for those resent.

Sarah entertained a motion to accept the Minutes from 5-2-22, Marge Strunk made a second and they were unanimously accepted as written.

II. Confirm Reappointed Members:

It was confirmed that Sarah and David Rodgers had been sworn in and Kurt DeVlyder had been seen with Pat for his oath of office.

III. Update Members List:

(See above)

IV. Vote on Officers:

Macy Gotthardt made a motion to retain the same slate of officers. David Strauch made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Updates: Farmers Market (Nadine San Antonio)/CCCD (Catherine Default):

Sarah advised she had no new information from CCCD.

Marge noted the Farmer's Market was open today as did several other members. Sarah shared information as she had attended. There were fewer vendors than later in the season, baked goods, plants, veggies, the food and ice cream tents, to name a few. It was very windy & cold, but a number of people were in attendance and she had spoken to Nadine.

Nadine reported that the sign issue appears to be working with the solution Jason Durrance suggested last fall. No sign is proposed for the corner coming into town, and the Brewster Field is 2x/month restriction by the school.

VI. Old Business/Any Other Business:

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

Determining the theme further in advance would allow for better planning of the entries.

Lawreen suggested an article in the paper to gather information about small farms that might just sell eggs or produce and have them join in to enhance the acknowledgement of small community farming activity.

It was recalled that the Ag Comm had entered various years with Dave Strauch, Dennis DeVlyder, Alan Frederickson 2 trucks, 2 tractors, a truck/trailer combo, with borrowed items such as a shed, a cow statue, farm rake and many veggies planted early by Dave Strauch. About 5 years ago there was the banner on the float for the movie. The Ag Comm has won several trophies.

Perhaps the Town Garden community gardeners would join in, or perhaps they already attend as a separate entity. The Farmer's Market might like to join in if they do not already.

There was some confusion about the entry category, not commercial, will need to check.

There was a discussion about a deadline for interested parties to respond to an article in the paper. Macy suggested interested responses to arrive before May 31<sup>st</sup> as June 1<sup>st</sup> is the next Ag Comm date.

1-Sarah suggested the responses should be sent to the Ag Comm @ PO Box 629, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 as there is a mailbox at the Town Hall for the Ag Comm. 2-Text Lawreen at 603-730-4786.

Lawreen and Sarah will do article, Sarah will check mailbox as she regularly checks the haz waste box at the same location.

Focus for 2023: 1-Plastic bags out of Wolfeboro. Lawreen noted ME has passed legislation. Sarah noted the paper bags that are bought at Marden's are very flimsy, are charged at 5 cents/each encouraging the brought-from-home recycled bags. Nantucket has had no plastic bags for a number of years Lawreen noted. Sarah suggested that Lawreen might want to speak with Kurt DeVlyder as he has expressed an interest in the same topic in the past. Marge advised there are no plastic bags in NY and that Debbie on Bryant Rd recycles the little plastic plant pots at her little veggie plant stand. Hannaford recycles plastic bags, but Lawreen noted the station for such is not very prominent. Dave Strauch suggested a plant pot recycling spot at the Solid Waste Facility, drop off or pick up. He also talked about recycling the 6-pack plastics. Sarah suggested GALA/Maker's Mill might be a good place for that. It might be a good project for next year as planting has sort of started.

Macy advised she had 100 red cedars @ \$60 from the State Forest. The Ag Comm effort to do trees was cancelled by covid and might be of interest next spring.

Next steps: contact GALA re plant pots/solid waste facility; plastic bags-contact Kurt and GALA; parade paper article, perhaps attempt to get theme earlier.

VII. Next Meeting Date – Adjourn:

The next meeting date will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Library.

With a motion from Marge and a second from Dave Rodgers, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M Silk, Secretary

Ag5-23