

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

June 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah M Silk, Chair; Lawreen Strauch, Vice-Chair; Marge Strunk, Dave Strauch, Wendy Rodgers, Katy Peternel

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Rodgers (after the meeting Sarah saw an email on her computer which had arrived after she left the house - change status to Excused)

ALTERNATES EXCUSED: Kurt DeVlyder, Macy Gotthardt

ABSENT: Dave Senecal, BOS liaison

I. Approve Minutes of 5-4-23:

Sarah Silk, Chair opened the meeting at 6:50 PM. After members read the Minutes, with a motion from Dave Strauch and a second from Marge Strunk, the members accepted the Minutes as written.

Sarah advised members of those excused. She noted that Kurt is fearful all his apples were hit with the late frost. Several members commented on the condition of peach, pear and apple trees.

II. July 4th Parade:

Sarah had spoken with Paul Vivian and the theme for the parade will be "Celebrating Our Heritage" with forms to be found at the Town Hall, Library, etc very soon. Sarah checked at the Library, however, they are not yet there.

She read the article in the newspaper (5-18-23) composed by Lawreen and herself. There had been no responses.

Lawreen Strauch noted that with farms disappearing it was important to show they are alive and well.

Marge Strunk advised that there are about 35-40% of the homes in the subdivision across the street from her having chickens or some sort of animals. This has risen over the past few years.

Lawreen had spoken with Alan Frederickson who will be unable to attend as he must run the farm store. There was a brief mention of how hard it is to find adequate help. Alan will mention it to his son, Eric. He would have modern equipment

Wendy mentioned Tom McCarriston as he has an older tractor or 2.

Dave recalled that Vinnie Blandini has a very old Allis-Chalmers version, a bow to the heritage theme.

Katy Peternel offered a small yoke for the float, noting she will be unable to attend the Ag Comm float. She suggested a small version of a barn for the float.

Dave S advised he has one used on previous floats. He spoke about making signs. He believes Kurt has a banner for the Ag Comm. Dave has one from about 5 years ago when the Ag Comm had the documentary "No More Farms".

Sarah offered to speak with Kurt about the banner.

There was a brief discussion about the Farmer's Market banner as Sarah had spoken to Nadine San Antonio about the parade. Nadine will be working that day and unable to attend. Nadine had spoken to the vendors when the Market opened today, but had no commitments. Sarah shared the theme which Nadine would share.

Several Ag members were in favor of displaying the sign. Others were not in favor noting non-Wolfeboro vendors.

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

There had been no updates from CCCD, Catherine Default.

Sarah added that she attended the Market about 2:30 when it was quite hot. There were many vendors, but not too many shoppers. Likely they attended earlier in the day due to the weather.

IV. Old Business/Any Other Business:

There was a discussion about plastic grocery bags and discontinued use of such. Lawreen was interested in the topic.

Sarah suggested Lawreen speak with Kurt DeVlyder who has spoken to Sarah in the past about an interest in the subject and how to go about a Warrant Article relative to bag banning.

This initiated a discussion about the pollution involved with the manufacture of paper, all the plastic utilized in packaging before arrival at the check-out (plastic bags on produce for example).

Marge told the group grocery bags are not used in NY.

Lawreen said that Nantucket has banned them.

Katy asked if this would be a ban just for Wolfeboro. There had been a state bill once. Her daughter in Delaware has no plastic bags.

Sarah asked Katy if she could look up the old attempt at legislation.

Old business from Sarah was a follow-up to Josh Arnold about recycling small plastic pots for veggies etc. Makers Mill will have a plant swap this week.

Josh and Sarah felt a cabinet similar to the "little free book nooks" would keep the light weight plastic pots from blowing around the exterior. He said they are working on landscaping in front of the building in the next grant application. He would keep this in mind, it's like the "No Host Trading Post" seed library swap and might work in front of the building.

Marge spoke about Deb on Bryant Rd offering a spot to recycle the pots from plants she sells.

V. Next Meeting Date – Adjourn:

As a loud clap of thunder boomed outside the Library, Wendy noted she had to leave to secure her chickens inside a building.

The 1st Thurs in July is 2 days after the 4th so the next meeting will be August 3rd.

With a motion from Katy and a 2nd from Marge, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M Silk, Ag Comm Secretary