

WOLFEBORO AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

January 6, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah M Silk, Chair; Lawreen Strauch, Vice-Chair; Katy Peternel, David Rodgers (7pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Excused – Marge Strunk, Wendy Rodgers, Dave Rodgers (arrived late); Blair Moody unexcused

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dave Strauch, Kurt DeVyllder, Macy Gotthardt,

BOS LIASION: Dave Senecal, absent

GUEST: Susan Wingate, Tuftonboro Agriculture Commission Chair

I. Approve Minutes 10-7-21:

Sarah Silk, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:45 PM at the Library. Members were socially distanced about the room. Sarah noted some members were not attending due to covid-19 concerns.

Sarah appointed alternates Dave Strauch to sit for David Rodgers, Macy Gotthardt to sit for Marge Strunk, and Kurt DeVyllder to sit for Wendy Rodgers. When David Rodgers appeared, Dave Strauch was appointed to sit for Blair Moody.

With a motion from Dave Strauch and a second from Macy Gotthardt, the Minutes from 10-7-21 were accepted as written.

II. Carroll County Conservation District Representative Update-Catherine Dufault:

Catherine Dufault was not in attendance. Katy Peternel advised that Catherine had sent a late email due to moving. She read the following from Catherine's email: 1) Applying for an agricultural marketing mini grant to bring a professional photographer to Carroll County farms for press coverage; 2) Partnering with Mount Washington Valley Eaters & Growers to grow membership and increase benefits- anyone in Carroll County is encouraged to join. Feel free to reach out with questions; 3) Identifying the Vital Communities Farm Viability Program. The goal of the program is to provide free business planning and technical assistance to ag producers. Learn more here: <https://vitalcommunities.org/farm-viability-a-priority-for-nh-nonprofits/>

III. Farmers Market Update – Megan Young

Megan Young was not in attendance to give an update.

IV. Discussion of Joint Event with Neighboring Ag Comm–Sue Wingate

Sue Wingate, Chair, Tuftonboro Ag Comm, gave a review of the town gardens, the no-till policy, pesticide reduction goal, and donations of fresh produce to the Food Pantry.

There was a discussion about composting goals, the LRPC program with Camp Sentinel, and an area set aside as a pollinator plot. Addition of water lines had increased success with the crops. The 40 plots are 20'x40' and some have more than one.

Sarah discussed the roll the local garden club has with the Wolfeboro town garden lot, the Conservation Commission roll with the local Ag classes in setting it up, and the greater success with the addition of a water line which has many pounds of fresh produce going to the food pantry.

Susan noted there are a few 'egg stands', but no real commercial agriculture in town besides Spider Web Gardens.

She explained they have a budget of \$800/yr.

Kurt DeVlyder asked about the meeting schedule with the response that Tuftonboro meets the 1st Tues of the month @ 4:30 in the BOS Office. (Tuesday, 1-11-22 is the next meeting.)

Kurt spoke to 'liquid fence' (a H2O & garlic mix) that is a non-toxic repellent for garden edges as Susan said there is some wildlife nibbling on the outside plots. He asked about connecting with the local garden group and Sarah advised that Sue Poirier would likely be the contact person.

Susan asked about other towns having Ag Comm with Sarah noting that there might be one in Brookfield.

There was a brief discussion about the zoning proposal that initiated the Wolfeboro Ag Comm and an issue about pigs. Dave Rodgers noted that pig manure retains moisture in the soil. Susan noted manures spreading at Spider Web had an unpleasant odor. Dave Strauch advised it was likely chicken manure.

Sarah noted there had been a big problem in Maine when sewer compost was used because of heavy metals and other toxic products that caused the hay to be tainted. Milk from cows pastured there then was contaminated as well. It is not understood how long the negative effects will last.

The LRHHPF hazardous waste event in 2010 was the first in 20 years for pesticide applicators and had not been repeated due to lack of funding. Previous Ag Commissioner Merrill had been in favor of another one. LRPC is hoping to get a Rural Development Grant for 2022 to resurrect the event.

Lawreen Strauch suggested there be a notice in the Carroll County Farm Bureau newsletter to let farmers know of the disposal event if it happens.

There was a discussion about pandemic-cancelled Earth Day events that was to be a joint activity with GALA and Kurt's greenhouse with spruce tree seedlings.

Macy Gotthardt advised that GALA is now Maker's Mill. She had recently had a tour donating woodworking tools. Electronics, welding, weaving, and jewelry are just a few offerings planned for the future.

Dave Strauch asked Susan about a washing station at the community garden. Locating it near the compost might encourage that endeavor as well.

V. Annual Report for Wolfeboro Town Book:

The group reviewed the Annual Report and suggested a change to the last paragraph.

VI. Old Business/Any Other Business:

Sarah had questions for Megan and Catherine who were unavailable. She noted that Alan Frederickson had resigned and that Jason Durrane was the new codes officer. She reminded members to reapply for appointment if their term expires in 2022.

Kurt mentioned several online farming sites for non-till options, 4 Season Farm, Elliot Coleman, Bar Harbor ME; Never Sink Farm, NY, tilther tool that skims the soil; and several other types of hoes.

Katy spoke of a VT Larson Farms apple grower that trellises apples and education about the origins of food to the public.

Dave Strauch spoke to repairs on YouTube and presence on that site for Butternut Farm in Farmington and the benefit of frequent posting to expand awareness of farm products.

VII. Adjourn:

The next meeting will be **Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 6:45pm @ the Library** (providing the room is available).

There will be no meeting in February unless Sarah is able to arrange a guest speaker.

With a motion from Katy and a second from Lawreen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M Silk, acting Secretary