

WOLFEBORO AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lawreen Strauch, Chairman; David Strauch, Wendy Rodgers, Marge Strunk, Charlie Horsken

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Sarah Silk, Vice-Chair Blair Moody

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carolyn Frederickson, Dennis DeVyllder

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Alan Frederickson, Mark Lush, Karen DeVyllder,

OTHERS ABSENT: Dave Senecal, BOS liaison

I. Call to Order:

Sarah Silk advised that Secretary, Amy Capone-Muccio had contacted her as Amy was unexpectedly unable to attend and asked Sarah to be her sub.

Lawreen Strauch, Chair, appointed Sarah to sit for Carolyn Frederickson and Blair Moody to sit for Dennis DeVyllder and proceeded to open the meeting at 7 PM.

II. Public Input:

There being no public input, Lawreen addressed the Agenda items.

III. Consideration of Minutes:

With a motion from Marge Strunk and a second from Wendy Rodgers, the Minutes from December 1, 2016 were accepted as written.\.

IV. Reappointment of Members:

Lawreen advised she had received a list from Anne Marble of the following expiring appointments: Lawreen Strauch and Carolyn Frederickson, full members and Alan Frederickson and Mark Lush as alternates.

Lawreen has submitted her letter for re-appointment.

She advised that Mark Lush has indicated that he does not wish to be re-appointed. No word has been received from Carolyn and Alan who were not present. Lawreen will contact them.

Sarah indicated that she would apply as a full member again as she is Vice-Chair and was surprised to learn that her last reappointment was for an alternate position.

V. Highlights of NH Farm and Forest Expo 2-18-17:

Lawreen advised Charlie that she and David had met the new owners of the Fhalman farm when they saw a piglet running in the road. They should be included on the farm inventory.

The Bly Farm, Cindy and Vinnnie Blandini, received an award as a Farm of Distinction from NH Ag Comm, Lorraine Merrill.

Sarah passed out NH Agricultural maps to those present. They were available at the Expo and she noted that of the local farms, only Bly Farm and Haines Hill Farm were listed (271-3551 is the contact number listed). The process for inclusion is not known,

but members were encouraged to call and seek more information. She noted that Ag Commissioner Merrill is interested in having the LRHHPF hazardous waste program perform another statewide HHW collection for the Pesticide Control Division of Markets and Foods as was done in 2010. Sarah will follow up on that and reminded members of that option for disposal of their hazardous waste,

A brief discussion followed regarding her contact with the Veterinarian's booth and safe sharps disposal for farmers administering shots to their farm animals and pets. The B-D "Safe Clip" is the preferred method as it clips off the needle (holds 1,500 needles or lancets) and the syringe can then be discarded into the regular trash with no chance of a needle prick as the waste goes from the local transfer station to the next facility where the container may be compressed on the tipping floor resulting in contact by waste workers. The added advantage is the needle clip costs about \$3 and the red biohazard boxes are over \$20 and not accepted at the solid waste facility by law.

Lawreen displayed a pamphlet regarding training for volunteers to help with animals for Disaster Preparation.

VI. Old Business:

Lawreen and Charlie had both received letters from the new Food Coop regarding the search for members prior to opening. There was mention in the paperwork about "local suppliers". No one present from a local farm has been contacted.

It was suggested that they be invited to an Af Meeting to learn more about their program. It was also noted that there are no USDA meat inspection facilities for poultry in NH. Raw milk can also not be resold.

It was noted that signs on 109A are no longer posted for resale of meat.

VII. Any Other Business:

Lawreen announced that Kathy Herrick's dairy farm in Rowley, MA is the subject of a documentary, "Forgotten Farms" which was shown in Concord and Keene last year and 3-2-17 in Beverly, MA. The topic explores the disconnection between the high rising cost of farming and farm equipment, etc, and the low return to the farmer while the middleman reaps the benefits.

Dave noted that 40 years ago farmers got \$16/100 weight for milk and today only receives \$15.67. This sparked a discussion regarding the permanent loss of farm land to residential uses. Dave noted NH lost 19 dairy farms last year. There was drought impact as well and Wendy noted farms are often at the mercy of subdivisions that pop up and object to farming smells.

The movie is expected to be shown Thursday, April 27th, in Portsmouth. There was a discussion about securing more information regarding cost, if any, to show the film, where it might be shown, what might be the best avenue to contact those most interested: Farm Bureau, GALA, small and beginner farmers, Extension Service, Ag program at the school, Farmers Market members, dairy exhibitors at the Fryeburg Fair, newspaper and

Community TV notices, were listed. Summer was suggested as an ideal time to catch as many people as possible and possibly some visitors as well as residents.

Sarah will confirm that the Ag Comm as a Town Board can use the Great Hall for such an event without a rental fee.

Lawreen indicated that there are flyers already printed to advertise the movie with Marge encouraging her to research the movie further. Certain vegetables have risen in popularity such as cauliflower as a sub for carbohydrates in macaroni and cheese and kale as chips and in smoothies, but milk is taken for granted and regulated in price.

With a motion from Charlie and a second from Dave, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah M Silk, acting secretary

Post Meeting Note: Dave Owen, Town Manager confirmed the use of the Great Hall with advance notice for scheduling. However, it is important to learn how the documentary is shown (projector, DVD, power point, etc) as equipment may not be available for the method of delivery required. Ag Comm would be responsible to make such arrangements.

3-17AgComm