

Wolfeboro Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2017

Members present: Chairman Lawreen Strauch, Vice Chairman Sarah Silk, David Strauch, Marge Strunk, Wendy Rodgers, and Dennis DeVyllder

Alternates present: Karen DeVyllder, Alan Frederickson, Blair Moody and Bree Schuette

Members absent: Charles Horsken and Selectmen's Representative Dave Senecal

As members entered Vice Chairman Silk passed out a contact list of member's telephone numbers and email addresses. She asked members to review for accuracy.

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She entertained a motion to bring the alternates to the table. Alan Frederickson would sit in for Charles Horsken.

It was moved by Sarah Silk and Chairman Strauch to bring the alternates to the table. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Chairman Strauch asked the secretary, Ms. Chamberlain if Ms. Capone had provided the password for the Facebook Account for Bree Schuette.

Ms. Chamberlain stated Ms. Capone could not provide the password because it was linked to her personal account so Ms. Capone hoped that Bree Schuette could set up a new Facebook Account.

Ms. Schuette stated she could do that and asked members to send her pictures.

Public Input

None

Consideration of Minutes

➤ **May 4, 2017**

It was moved by Dennis DeVyllder and seconded by Dave Strauch to accept the minutes of May 4, 2017 as amended. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Commission discussed whether the Farmer's Market could dictate the price a vendor could sell their product for at the market.

Mr. Frederickson stated the Board of the Farmer's Market cannot dictate the price.

Vice Chairman Silk stated but they have pressured people about their prices.

Commission Business

➤ By-laws

It was moved by Dennis DeVyder and seconded by Sarah Silk to accept the By-laws as written. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

➤ Updated Member Contact List

Vice Chairman Silk made corrections to Marge's email address, Wendy's last name and Chairman Strauch telephone number. Sarah asked Ms. Chamberlain to make these changes and send the corrected contact list to members only.

Old Business

➤ July 4th Parade

Chairman Strauch asked which members wanted to participate in the parade.

Dennis DeVyder, DeVyder Farm stated he would let Chairman Strauch know tomorrow, June 2, 2017.

Alan Frederickson, Top of the Hill Farm stated he would participate.

Chairman Strauch and David Strauch, No View Farm stated they would participate.

Mr. Frederickson stated we should apply as the Ag Commission because then we would only pay one entry fee.

The Commission decided to enter as the Ag Commission but have individual floats in the parade.

Vice Chairman Silk asked if the arrangements for the parade changed then how members would get in touch with each other. She suggested emailing the secretary and having the secretary send out an email with the changes.

➤ Movie Update

Vice Chairman Silk updated the Commission on the pros and cons of showing the movie at different places. The Great Hall is one option. The Ag Commission would not be charged to use the Great Hall but the acoustics are not very good and it would limit the dates since we would be using the Parks and Recreation equipment. Another option is

the Village Players Theater. It could be used for approximately \$250.00. It has good acoustics, air conditioning and it is set up to show movies. There are 160 fixed seats but forty more could be added to accommodate two hundred people. There is a concession stand that we could use as well. Vice Chairman Silk stated members could make items that could be sold.

Vice Chairman Silk suggested asking the Board of Selectmen for some funds to help with the cost. She stated they could charge people a \$10 admittance fee. She stated a date is needed.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the plus of using the Great Hall is it is free but it does not have air conditioning.

Bree Schuette stated the acoustics at the Great Hall are not good but the Village Players Theater has a very nice system.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the next step is to get in touch with Dave Simmons and Sarah Gardener with a date for showing the movie.

Chairman Strauch stated since the Village Players Theatre is set up to show movies then it probably would be the better option because it would be more professional.

Dave Strauch asked if the Great Hall had curtains.

Vice Chairman Silk stated no.

Mr. Strauch stated that will be a problem.

Chairman Strauch stated we should ask the Town for some money to help with the cost of this project.

Mr. Frederickson stated we want people to be able to hear the movie.

Mr. Strauch suggested getting sponsors.

Karen DeVlyder stated she like the idea of getting sponsors. She suggested asking for donations instead of charging to see the movie.

Bree Schuette stated she would sponsor a \$100.00.

Chairman Strauch stated the cost of showing the movie is \$250.00 and if we use the Village Players Theatre it would be another \$250.00 for a total of \$500.00.

Wendy Rodgers asked what the movie was about.

Vice Chairman Silk stated it is about three different farms and it is called Forgotten Farms.

Wendy Rodgers stated we could ask Sherman Farms to donate.

Alan Frederickson stated they don't have the dairy farm anymore. They sold to Huskies.

Alan Frederickson stated Granite State Dairy Promotion could be contacted.

Bree Schuette stated she would get in touch with Nancy from Stonyfield.

It was moved by Wendy Rodgers and seconded by Marge Strunk to vote to have the movie at the Village Players Theatre. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Commission discussed a date for showing the movie.

Chairman Strauch stated she was not sure how long it would take to set this up. She stated it could be next summer.

Vice Chairman Silk stated she would get in touch with Dave Simmons about possible dates after checking the availability of the Village Players Theatre.

➤ **Open Farm Day – Sunday, August 6th 11 am – 3 pm**

Chairman Strauch stated No View Farm would be participating.

Chairman Strauch asked Dennis DeVlyder if he would be participating.

Mr. DeVlyder stated yes.

Chairman Strauch stated Bly Farm would be participating.

Chairman Strauch stated Barbara Dell with the donkeys would be participating.

Chairman Strauch stated she would ask her new neighbor, Brown's Family Farm if they would like to participate. Chairman Strauch stated they have a children's camp during the summer.

Alan Frederickson stated Top of the Hill Farm would participate.

Chairman Strauch stated she would check with Charles Horsken.

➤ **Promotions**

Bree Schuette stated she would start the Facebook Page.

She asked for pictures especially of their animals.

Chairman Strauch stated she would get in touch with the paper.

Other Business

Vice Chairman Silk stated she received an email on May 30th about the Food Waste and Municipal Composting that took place in Meredith on May 25th. She stated the email was received too late.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the Town sent her an email about a lot that they have for sale that was taken because taxes were not paid for three years and one day. The Town asks the different Boards and Commissions if the property is valuable. Vice Chairman Silk stated the lot is 44 Elm Street.

Chairman Strauch asked how big the lot is.

Vice Chairman Silk stated it has 3 acres, a shared driveway and the Conservation Commission stated it had no value.

It was moved by Alan Frederickson and seconded by Wendy Rodgers to vote in favor of the Town selling the lot. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Vice Chairman Silk stated she gave members a copy of the license agreement between the Town and the Wolfeboro Area Farmers' Market. She stated the agreement was not signed by the Farmers' Market.

Vice Chairman Silk read the fourth paragraph. It stated: Whereas, Licensee desires to use a portion of Clark Park for its "Farmer's Market," a seasonal weekly event in which local growers offer their locally grown, raised, and/or processed food and farm products for sale to the public.

Vice Chairman Silk stated they should ask the Town to clarify or give preference to people that are Wolfeboro farmers. Vice Chairman Silk asked members what they wanted to ask the Board of Selectmen to do about this License Agreement.

Vice Chairman Silk read the Term of the License Agreement. It stated: Term. The term of this License shall be from June 1 through October 30 each year, for the duration of this License. The License is subject to renewal annually at the sole discretion of the Licensor. Licensee acknowledges that Licensor may terminate this License for any reason, or for now reason, upon 10 days notice to Licensee. Provided however, that if the Licensee engages in any activity which, in the judgment of the Licensor, is harmful to the public health and safety. Licensor may terminate this License Immediately.

Vice Chairman Silk had a discussion with Selectmen Linda Murray. Ms. Murray stated she felt the language allowed them to make changes to the agreement and especially since the agreement was not signed.

Wendy Rodgers stated if they are turning local farmers away then they are breaking their agreement. It was supposed to be a local Wolfeboro Farmer's Market. She stated that Josh was bringing people from all over the place into the Farmer's Market. She stated she was very upset with this and asked if Josh was still involved with the Farmer's Market.

Vice Chairman Silk stated he was not involved anymore.

Ms. Rodgers stated Josh steamed rolled us.

Ms. Rodgers stated she talked to the Director last year about selling her products. The Director told her that she needed to know what she would be selling because if others were selling the same item then she might not be allowed in. Ms. Rodgers stated she felt it was not fair if local residents were trying to sell their product and they were not allowed to.

Chairman Strauch stated we are going to vote to send someone to the Board of Selectmen to discuss this agreement with them.

Alan Frederickson stated he is on the Board of Directors for the Farmers' Market. He was not on the Board when a lot of their rules and procedures were adopted and he does not agree with a lot of their rules. He agrees with Ms. Rodgers that when the Farmers' Market originally started it was a group of people that were all local residents. He stated then they brought Gala in and that is when these issues came into play. This is when Maine vendors were brought in. He stated at meetings he has continued to state that local farmers should take precedent over others. He stated he is only one person on the Board and he gets voted against quite a bit.

Vice Chairman Silk asked about the radius. She asked if it still was 15 miles.

Mr. Frederickson stated the rules state that any products that are sold at the Farmers' Market have to come from the State of New Hampshire or within fifty miles of Wolfeboro into the State of Maine.

Mr. Frederickson stated the New Hampshire Department of Agricultural definition of local would be anything in the State of New Hampshire.

Mr. Frederickson stated if vendors are selling products not from their farm they are suppose to have a sign stating where the item came from.

Mr. DeVlyder asked if he had a sign.

Mr. Frederickson stated he did and was very honest with people.

Mr. DeVlyder stated he did not remember seeing any signs and he asked about the 50 mile radius. He stated there are people selling fish from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Frederickson stated the people are from Brookfield.

Mr. DeVlyder stated they catch the fish in Gloucester.

Mr. Frederickson stated when Mr. DeVlyder's application came before the Board he stated he would like to see the Maine vendors restricted from the market and allow Mr. DeVlyder to participate because he is from Wolfeboro. He stated he has been fighting with the Board for years about the rules not being fair.

Mr. DeVlyder stated the rules are not fair.

Mr. DeVlyder stated he has to have a Hawkers and Peddlers license to sell his items downtown and wondered why they did not have to have a license.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the precedent for the Hawkers' license is that previous vendors come first and if the business is in Wolfeboro.

Mr. DeVlyder stated they should not have the right to turn away Wolfeboro residents.

Mr. Frederickson stated the rules and procedures for the Farmer's Market should be evaluated every year.

Wendy Rodgers stated the first step is to go to the Board of Selectmen and present our case.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the motion should read that preference is given to Wolfeboro residents and farmers.

Alternate member Blair Moody would be voting for Charles Horsken.

It was moved by Chairman Strauch and seconded by Dave Strauch to give preference to Wolfeboro residents and farmers to sell at the Farmer's Market. Alan Frederickson, Dennis DeVlyder and Karen DeVlyder recused themselves. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Mr. DeVlyder asked if the language should be preference or should be allowed to sell.

The Commission agreed the language should state to be allowed to sell.

Mr. DeVlyder stated local vendors should be allowed to sell at that market because they are Wolfeboro taxpayers.

Vice Chairman Silk stated then we need to change the motion.

It was moved by Chairman Strauch and seconded by Wendy Rodger that the Farmer's Market be required to include any Wolfeboro farmer or vendor to sell their products as long as they obeyed by all the rules. Alan Frederickson, Dennis DeVlyder and Karen DeVlyder recused themselves. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Chairman Strauch stated Sarah and I will attend the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting to discuss this concern with them. She asked Mr. DeVlyder to attend as well.

Blair Moody asked what if the Board of Selectmen says no.

Vice Chairman Silk stated we want the same precedent for the Farmer's Market as the Hawkers and Peddlers license.

Karen DeVlyder stated the Farmer's Market does not seem to be following the rules.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 PM.

The Commission discussed the sponsors needed to show the movie. It was decided that DeVlyder Farm, Top of the Hill Farm, No View Farm and Bree Schuette would all donate \$100.00 and they would ask the Farm Bureau for a donation of \$100.00 as well.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Strauch entertained a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Wendy Rodgers and seconded by Marge Strunk to adjourn at 8:42 PM. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Chamberlain

Recording Secretary