

WOLFEBORO AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Silk, Vice-Chair; Marge Strunk, Lawreen Strunk; Katy Peternel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Blair Moody, excused; Wendy Rodgers & David Rodgers, unexcused

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Macy Gotthardt; Kurt DeVyllder; David Stauch, Alan Frederickson

BOS Rep: Dave Senecal present

- Read Virtual Meeting Access Information:

In response to the Covid-19 coronavirus, and in accordance with recommendations by State and Federal Health Officials limiting public gatherings, this meeting will be held remotely.

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- Open Meeting:

Sarah Silk, Vice-Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:32 PM. She introduced Anthony Borelli who will be speaking to the group about the drought conditions in NH and its impact on farming. She also introduced new Ag Comm member Katy Peternel.

Blair Moody is excused from attendance. Lawreen and David Strauch may be a few minutes late and Alan Frederickson is excused, but will try to join us after a conflicting meeting.

Alt. Kurt DeVyllder was asked to serve in Blair's spot.

Sarah reviewed the recent appointments by the BOS: Macy as an alternate, not yet sworn in, now present; Wendy & David Rodgers, sworn in but not present or excused; Lawreen and alternate David Strauch sworn in and now present; and Katy sworn in and present.

- Approve Minutes 3-4-21:

Sarah asked if anyone had changes to the 3-4-21 Meeting Minutes. She noted on page 3 (just before Old Business) that information that there is no limit to the number of alternates is incorrect. The RSA's limit the number to 5 each.

With a motion from Kurt DeVyllder and a second from Katy Peternel, the minutes were unanimously accepted with a roll call vote. (Note: Both Marge Strunk & Alan Frederickson had joined the group at this time.)

- Update Member Contact List:

Lawreen noted that David is not listed in the group emails. All members and alternates confirmed the information was correct and Katy's had been added.

Sarah realized she had skipped over reorganization and asked for nominations for Chair and

Vice-Chair.

Marge nominated Sarah for chair and a second from Marge. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Marge nominated Lawreen for Vice-Chair with a second from Katy. The roll call vote was unanimous.

- Review Rules of Procedure:

Sarah noted the Rules of Procedure do not indicate any review since 2016. She will try to check old Minutes for when they were reviewed and no changes made to update the notations.

Sarah referred to the copy of the Rules sent to members with suggested changes in bold as follows:

Page 2: Meetings: #1 insert “held in person or virtually”; #2 after monthly insert, “or as deemed necessary”; #4 Quorum, top line insert “(4)” after membership; #6 line 3, insert “or failure to be sworn in within 3 months of appointment”.

Page 3: insert “CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Members need to fully disclose at the earliest opportunity, an actual or perceived conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined in RSA 21-G:21 II as “conflict of interest means a situation, circumstances or financial interest which has the potential to cause a private interest to interfere with the proper exercise of a public duty”. NH Municipal Association 2019 Knowing the Territory defines a conflict as a direct personal or pecuniary (financial) interest in the outcome.”; delete “Chairman’s Comments” in sample Agenda (re alphabetize).

Page 4: Update with 2021 date and other review dates if they can be found.

It was explained that the changes to the Rules are discussed at one meeting, but can not be voted on until the following meeting.

- Programs & Work Plan:

Kurt introduced Anthony Borelli. Anthony recently graduated with an environmental degree with political science and sustainability that had enrolled during the pandemic in a Maine Agriculture Association program involving aquaculture and the European Institute for Sustainability.

Anthony noted we are in a second year of drought and touched upon the impact to crops, water recreation and even hunting. Rising temperatures have impact and torrential rainfall does not get absorbed, but leads to storm water erosion. As stakeholders, farmers can conserve water by using drip lines and spray irrigation only in the morning and evening. Composting conserves water. Rotating where animals feed assists the feed to grow back. Lawn sprinklers set on automatic timers regardless of weather conditions is an issue.

Alan Frederickson spoke about sensors for irrigation systems to address this. He commented on water drawn from the lakes. His fields did best last year that had an application of manure. Farm Service Agency declared the area a disaster and assistance was given. Alan is awaiting word on a new water system as his surface wells went dry. He lost a high tunnel as the water was needed for the animals. Natural Resource Conservation Service is also an asset.

Kurt spoke to having an environmental aspect to the Ag Comm meetings and noted that lawns need to be higher in drought conditions. Anthony had noted earlier the numbers of 100’s of gallons of water that is wasted on lawn irrigation that is just set to run by clocks.

Anthony spoke of red & green dot families in South Africa where they ration to 10gal/day.

- July 4th Parade:

Dave Senecal advised the parade will be Sunday at 1PM. There are pandemic parameters as well

and a deadline date. No fireworks as Brewster will not allow people on the property. Macy was interested in the theme. There was some interest.

- Open Farm Day:

Alan noted they are open at the farm because of the stand/store. The date was discussed as DeVyllders will be open in the fall. Perhaps August is not the best date. Eastern States Exposition and fall fairs make later hard to schedule.

- Ag Comm Invitational:

Meeting with other Commissions to share ideas and projects such as the movie Forgotten Farms might be useful. Alan advised Olivia Saunders at Extension might know who will take over a group similar to NH Assoc of Conservation Comm.

- CCFBureau/Ext Serv/ etc Presentations:

These might be possible outside or virtually.

- Old Business/Any Other Business:

The May 2nd fire at Amanda Bevard's barn was discussed. It's believed she lost about 70 animals (piglets, chickens, etc) and the entire barn with equipment. The farm in Brookfield with the restaurant in Sanbornville is working on a BBQ fundraiser. More information

- Adjourn:

With a motion from Kurt and a second from Marge, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous roll call vote at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M Silk, Substitute Secretary