

Wolfeboro Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2018
7:00 PM
Approved

Members present: Chairman Lawreen Strauch, Vice Chairman Sarah Silk, Selectmen's Representative Dave Senecal, David Strauch, Marge Strunk and Wendy Rodgers

Alternates present: Blair Moody, Alan Fredrickson and Bree Schuette

Alternates absent: Karen DeVlyder

Members absent: Dennis DeVlyder and Charles Horsken

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Consideration of Minutes

➤ **December 7, 2017 (Regular Meeting)**

It was moved by Sarah Silk and seconded by Dave Strauch to accept the minutes of December 7, 2017 with amendments to pages 1, 3, and 5. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Commission Business

➤ **Reappointment of Ag Commission**

A. Members

- i. Dennis DeVlyder
- ii. Wendy Rodgers
- iii. David Strauch

B. Alternates

- i. Karen DeVlyder

Chairman Strauch stated if Dennis DeVlyder, Wendy Rodgers, David Strauch or Karen DeVlyder would like to be reappointed to the Ag Commission then they need to send an email expressing their interest to Anne Marble by March 23, 2018. Also, it is suggested that they attend the Board of Selectmen Meeting on April 4th at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Silk stated if the members are reappointed then they will be told to see Pat Waterman.

Ms. Silk stated she would get in touch with Mr. and Mrs. DeVlyder to see if they were interested in being reappointed.

➤ **Plans for 2018**

A. Farm Tours

Chairman Strauch stated the Ag Commission did not participate in Farm Day last year because we were busy promoting the movie, "Forgotten Farm Day". She asked if members were interested in participating in Farm Day this year.

Ms. Silk suggested getting in touch with the Browns and Barbara Delphe to see if they would be interested in participating.

Mr. Fredrickson stated when he attended a meeting for the NH Farm Bureau there were some members that were concerned about having farm tours because of the Christina Fay animal cruelty case. He stated one person could make an accusation and then they could make some issues for the owners of the farms.

The Commission discussed this at length.

The Commission decided to table the decision on whether they should have Farm Day until their next meeting.

B. July 4th Parade

Chairman Strauch asked for volunteers for the Fourth of July Parade. She asked if members wanted to participate as a group or as individuals.

Mr. Fredrickson stated he would be able to participate in the parade.

Mr. Strauch stated No View Farm would participate.

The Commission decided to discuss this at more length when the date gets closer.

➤ **Guest from Tuftonboro Ag Commission**

Chairman Strauch stated Sue Wingate, Member of the Tuftonboro Ag Commission was supposed to be here tonight but she was sick. Chairman Strauch stated hopefully Ms. Wingate will be able to attend our next meeting.

Ms. Silk stated this will be tabled until our next meeting.

➤ **New Business**

Mr. Fredrickson stated as he previously mentioned he wanted the Commission to be aware that the NH Farm Bureau was discussing how the Christina Fay animal cruelty case could affect their decision to offer farm tours.

Ms. Silk asked the Commission if they ever received the article that Doug Smithwood wrote about NH Farming from Anne Marble. The letter discussed how young people that want to start farms do not have the finances and Mr. Smithwood discussed ways on how this could be funded.

Ms. Rodgers stated she had read the article.

Ms. Silk questioned if Anne Marble emailed the article to the members because she was not sure that she sent it to Anne.

The Commission members stated they did not receive it from Anne Marble but they had all read the article.

Mr. Fredrickson stated there are a couple of groups that are doing that type of thing. One of the groups is called Land for Goods and they are trying to help young farmers get funding. The state is working on a new 2018 farm bill where they are pushing stuff for young and beginning farmers. National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is devoting a lot more money to promoting young farmers. The Land for Good is a private organization and they are trying to pair young farmers with older farmers that don't have anyone to take over their farms.

Ms. Silk stated this program is more like mentoring than giving a gift.

Mr. Fredrickson stated it is not a gift but grants are offered to help with funding. Unfortunately, he felt a lot of young people wanted farms to be gifted to them and he stated that is not how things work. There are a lot of programs that can make it easier for young people but everything is not going to be handed to them.

Chairman Strauch stated it is hard to find young people who are interested in farming that is why it is nice to match up people.

Mr. Fredrickson stated there is a lot of interest in agriculture in the younger generation.

Chairman Strauch stated the average farmer is 60 years old and they are thinking about retiring and wondering who is going to take over the farm if it is not their children.

Mr. Fredrickson stated there are organizations that trying to bring the two groups together.

Ms. Silk questioned if the Commission was interested in having Mr. Smithwood attend an Ag Commission meeting.

The Commission agreed to allow Mr. Smithwood to attend a meeting to talk to them.

➤ **Old Business**

Ms. Silk asked Ms. Schuette if she could update the Commission about the library contact.

Bree Schuette stated she has sent multiple emails to Cindy Scott but has not heard back from her. Ms. Schuette stated she would stop in to see Cindy Scott next week.

➤ **Next Meeting Date**

The Commission discussed the date of the next meeting and it was decided to hold it on May 3rd.

It was moved by Sarah Silk and seconded by Marge Strunk to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Chamberlain

Recording Secretary