Wolfeboro Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2019

7:00 PM

Unapproved

**Members present:** Chairman Lawreen Strauch, Vice Chairman Sarah Silk, David Strauch,

Marge Strunk, Blair Moody and Macy Gotthardt

**Alternates present:** Alan Fredrickson

**Members absent:** Wendy Rodgers and Selectmen’s Representative Dave

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**Alternates absent:** Matthew Plache and Bree Schuette

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Chairman Strauch appointed Alternate Member, Alan Fredrickson to sit in for Member, Wendy Rodgers.

Chairman Strauch stated Corey Ryder, Code Officer is here tonight as a guest.

**Consideration of Minutes**

* **June 13, 2019 (Regular Meeting)**

**It was moved by Vice Chairman Silk and seconded by Blair Moody to accept the minutes of June 13, 2019 as amended. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.**

**Reappointment of Agricultural Commission**

* **Members**

**ii. Blair Moody**

Chairman Strauch stated Mr. Moody has agreed to become a full member.

Vice Chairman Silk stated he was already sworn in.

**Memorial Tree/Farm Bureau Discussion**

* **Location and Next Steps**

Vice Chairman Silk stated she has been in touch with Christine Collins, Parks and Recreation Director. There is a spot at Clark’s Plaza near the white picketed fence and there is enough room to have an apple tree. Bartlett Tree can supply a tree with a circumference of 2 ½ inches. We have $250.00 that we can get from the Parks and Recreation budget. The cost of the apple tree is approximately $279.00. Vice Chairman Silk questioned if members would each donate $5.00 to pay for tree.

All members agreed to donate $5.00 so they could purchase the apple tree.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the Farm Bureau will take care of the plaque. She stated Alan Frederickson and Dave Strauch have agreed to plant the tree. We will have a little ceremony after we get the plaque which hopefully will be in August. Vice Chairman Silk spoke with Kurt DeVylder and he thought his father would be very pleased and amused to forever be at the Farmer’s Market.

* **Farm Bureau Events – Alan/Wotton**

Chairman Strauch stated Dave Strauch saw a nice plaque online.

Mr. Strauch stated a nice 10 x 20 granite plaque that is 3 inches thick could be purchased. It will cost approximately $250.00 and the Farm Bureau stated they would pay for it.

Ms. Gotthardt questioned how far away from the tree will the plaque have to be placed.

Members agreed that is would need to be placed to give the tree room to grow.

Vice Chairman Silk stated she would get in touch with Ms. Collins to tell her to order the tree.

Chairman Strauch stated we will plant the tree first and then have a ceremony a few days later.

**Open Farm Day**

Chairman Strauch stated Open Farm Day will be Sunday, August 4th from 11 am to 3pm. Full Moon Farm, Iron Bog Farm, Bly’s, Top of the Hill Farm and No View Farm all agreed to participate in Open Farm Day.

Vice Chairman Silk stated she will get in touch with Cindy from Branch & Blooms (new owners of DeVylders) to see if they would like to participate in Open Farm Day.

Alan Frederickson arrived at the meeting.

Chairman Strauch stated we can put something on our Facebook Page and in the Granite State News to advertise for Open Farm Day.

Vice Chairman Silk stated that maybe Ms. Paquette could put a picture in the paper.

**New Business**

Chairman Strauch introduced Corey Ryder, Codes Officer to the members.

Vice Chairman Silk stepped down due to her involvement as a ZBA Member.

Chairman Strauch stated Mr. Ryder is here to educate us on the matter of what Mr. Frederickson would have to do to put up a machinery building with an attached farm stand.

Mr. Ryder stated he had read some of the RSA’s that Mr. Frederickson sent him. The RSA’s will give you some leniency but you will still have to meet building codes. He questioned the size of the building?

Mr. Frederickson stated the storage building for the machinery is 60 x 100 and attached to that we were going to put the farm stand is 40 x 25. The farm stand will be attached but it will be a separate building.

Mr. Ryder stated the biggest issue will be the store section because it will be a business use which will require a bathroom by building code. An ADA bathroom requires an architect by State statue.

Mr. Frederickson stated some farm stands have porta potties.

Mr. Ryder stated they could work with him. He stated he tried to look for exemptions but he could not find anything.

Mr. Frederickson stated he meet with Mr. Sullivan, the Town Planner yesterday and Mr. Sullivan is having the Town’s attorney review. Mr. Sullivan stated he would not have to go before the ZBA because of it being an accessory use. Mr. Frederickson stated he gave Mr. Sullivan a copy of a new statue that just passed through the House and Senate but needs the governor’s signature. In the statue there are revisions to RSA 21:34 A.

Chairman Strauch stated it states there could be exceptions not exemptions.

Mr. Frederickson read the RSA. He questioned the language.

Mr. Frederickson stated he spoke with Mr. Ryder because he wanted everything to do correct. On an average weekday the farm only has about 6 to 8 customers.

Mr. Ryder stated he would look further into it.

Mr. Frederickson stated it will not be cost effective. He could get a building permit as long as the public does not come in. Once the public is involved is trigs all kinds of requirements.

Mr. Strauch questioned if Mr. Frederickson was legal now.

Mr. Frederickson questioned if he would need sprinkler systems.

Mr. Ryder stated he did not think so since there would be no separations from a business to storage.

Mr. Frederickson questioned if it would require a septic system.

Mr. Ryder questioned the age of the septic.

Mr. Frederickson stated it was put in in 2004.

Mr. Moody questioned if the addition would be worth it. It sounds like a lot of money with very little return.

Mr. Frederickson agreed.

Mr. Ryder stated following the building code usually kills most commercial projects.

Chairman Strauch stated the lawyer is looking at it so maybe she will come up with some exceptions.

Mr. Frederickson stated the project could easily cost over $40,000.00 if full site plans, an engineer and a septic system is needed.

Mr. Frederickson stated he also discussed signage for the Farmer’s Market with Mr. Sullivan as well. The market has been extremely slow since the signs were taken down. They discussed allowing some of the signs but they would need to clarify first.

Mr. Ryder agreed they should have further discussion about the signage because they don’t want to kill the Farmer’s Market.

Mr. Ryder exited the meeting.

Vice Chairman Silk updated Mr. Frederickson about the status of the Memorial Tree for Dennis DeVylder.

**Farm Bureau Event – Alan/Wotton**

Chairman Strauch questioned if Mr. Frederickson would host the event on July 16.

Mr. Frederickson agreed. He stated he would need tables and chairs.

**July 4th Parade**

Mr. Frederickson stated he was not sure if he could participate. They may still be haying.

Mr. Strauch stated he would participate.

Ms. Gotthardt questioned the types of things they have in the parade.

Vice Chairman Silk stated one year they advertised for the movie, “The Forgotten Farm.

Mr. Frederickson stated we have done floats.

Mr. Strauch stated we have won four times.

Chairman Strauch stated we have had different equipment as well.

**Review Rules of Procedure**

The Commission reviewed the Rules of Procedures. (See attached sheets)

**It was moved by Alan Frederickson and seconded by Marge Strunk to adopt the Rules of Procedure. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.**

Vice Chairman asked Ms. Chamberlain to check to see if this needed to be signed by the Chairman and then put in the Ag Commission file.

**Election of Officers**

Mr. Frederickson questioned if they were still lacking members.

Vice Chairman Silk stated they need alternate members.

The Commission questioned the attendance of Matthew Plache and Bree Schuette.

Mr. Frederickson suggested asking Full Moon Farm (Jennifer French/Kevin French) to become alternate members.

**Adjournment**

**It was moved by Chairman Strauch and seconded by Dave Strauch to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Being none opposed, the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele Chamberlain**

Recording Secretary