Wolfeboro Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2017
7:00 PM
Unapproved

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

Alternates present: Blair Moody

Alternates absent: Karen DeVylder, Bree Schuette and Alan Frederickson

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

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Chairman Strauch appointed Alternate Member, Blair Moody to sit in for Member, Dennis DeVylder.

Consideration of Minutes

- **October 5, 2017 (Regular Meeting)**

It was moved by Wendy Rodgers and seconded by Blair Moody to accept the minutes of October 5, 2017 as written. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Commission Business

- **Ag in the Classroom**

A. Letter from "NH Ag in the Classroom" Received 11/17/17 (Sarah)

Sarah Silk stated we received a letter from "NH Ag in the Classroom" basically asking for a donation from us. Unfortunately, we don't have a budget so we will not be able to send a donation. Ms. Silk questioned if this was the same as the NH Farm Bureau.

Chairman Strauch stated this was part of NH Farm Bureau. The NH Farm Bureau donates a book to different schools.

Ms. Silk questioned how many books were donated in each county.

Chairman Strauch stated she thought the amount was one or two. Karen DeVylder usually takes one book to Carpenter School and I take one to Ossipee Central School.

Ms. Silk questioned if they should response to the letter or if Chairman Strauch should just present the book. She questioned the process.

Chairman Strauch stated it is already in the NH Farm Bureau's budget.

Ms. Silk stated if Ms. DeVylder isn't available this year she would be happy to read to the children at Carpenter School.

Chairman Strauch stated the book is received from Cindy Blandini. Ms. Blandini is an Associated Women in the Women's Group which is part of NH Farm Bureau. She passes the books out at the NH Farm Bureau Meetings and then we set something up at the school. The book is read to a group of students and then the book is donated to the school.

B. Library Contact Update (Bree)

Bree Schuette is absent so she will update the Commission at the next meeting.

- **Annual Ag Commission Town Book Report**

Ms. Silk stated she asked Mr. Owen if the Ag Commission could have a picture with their report in the Town Book Report this year. Ms. Silk stated it would be nice to have the picture of the banner of the "Forgotten Farm" movie which was shown this summer. She handed out a draft of the Wolfeboro Agriculture Commission 2017 Annual Report.

Ms. Silk stated it sounded like the pictures for the cover and back of the Town Report were already decided. The Town Docks and Foss Field Pavilion Building were the two items suggested for pictures on the Town Report. She suggested sending the picture of the banner of the "Forgotten Farm" movie to Anne Marble to see if it could be included inside the book as a regular picture.

The Commission discussed the draft that Ms. Silk had written and corrections were made to the Town Report. (See attached sheet)

Ms. Silk stated memberships needed to be updated. Wendy Rodgers, Dennis DeVylder, Karen DeVylder and David Strauch terms end in 2018. If members were interested in being reappointed they needed to send an email to Anne Marble stating their continued interest.

- **Old Business**

A. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Update

The gentleman that was supposed to present a talk about ticks at the meeting was sick so they had a presentation on shooting pumpkins.

Chairman Strauch stated there will be a new president at the next meeting in January.

B. Presentation at Library (Association Women's Book)

Ms. Silk stated the book "The 100 years of NH Farm Bureau" was purchased for $20.00 with the proceeds from the showing of the movie the "Forgotten Farms". We need to make arrangements to give the book to the library.

- **New Business**

A. 2018 Planning

i. Open Farm Day, etc.

Chairman Strauch stated last year we skipped Farm Day. We usually have it on Sunday the weekend of the Hospital Street Farm from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Chairman Strauch stated the farms that are usually open are: Bly Farm, DeVylder Farm, Top of the Hill Farm and No View Farm. DeVylder Farm is for sale so it probably won't be included this year.

Ms. Rodgers asked about Charlie Horsken's farm.

Chairman Strauch stated they were more involved with landscaping than farming at this point.

David Strauch suggested Barbara Delphe and the Browns.

Ms. Silk stated that would be good because both of those farms are near yours and there was a concern about being able to visit more than one farm because of the distance between all the farms.

The Commission agreed to have Farm Day this year and they would discuss it in more detail at a future meeting.

ii. Membership – Appointment Renewals in 2018

a. Members – Dennis DeVlyder, David Strauch and Wendy Rodgers

b. Alternates – Karen DeVlyder

Ms. Silk stated this was talked about already.

B. 11/30/17 Granite State News Letter to Editor

Ms. Silk stated Doug Smithwood wrote a letter about NH Farming. The letter discussed how young people that want to start farms do not have the finances and he discussed ways on how this could be funded.

Ms. Rodgers stated the costs of the farms are so high that only developers are able to afford to buy them.

Ms. Silk stated she would have Anne Marble scan the article and send it out to members by email. She suggested having Mr. Smithwood attend a meeting to discuss his letter with the Ag Commission.

Other Business

Wendy Rodgers stated she had three items she would like to discuss with the Commission.

Ms. Rodgers stated an individual asked her to discuss with the Ag Commission the items that were being sold at the Farmer's Market. The individual told Ms. Rodgers that the items that were being sold were not grown by the farmers and they were being purchased and brought in. Ms. Rodgers stated this is becoming a big problem.

Ms. Silk stated she thought any item coming from NH was considered local.

Ms. Rodgers stated these farmers are selling these items as if they are growing the items on their farms.

Ms. Silk stated a sign was supposed to be posted if the item was not grown by them.

Ms. Rodgers stated it is becoming a problem and one name continues to come up and that person is on the Board of Directors. The person is also out of state.

Ms. Rodgers stated she felt signs needed to be displayed if the items were not grown by the farmers telling people where the items were from.

Ms. Rodgers asked if the Ag Commission had a copy of the by-laws of the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Silk stated they did have a copy somewhere and it could be viewed online.

Ms. Rodgers stated Mr. DeVylder had brought up the concern about farmers being further than the allotted 50 mile limit. Ms. Rodgers stated Mr. DeVylder stated they were not following their own rules for the Farmer's Market. She stated the by-laws and rules need to be followed.

Ms. Rodgers stated when she was at the Sandwich Fair there was a problem with people bringing dogs into the fairgrounds that were not service dogs. She stated only service

dogs are supposed to be allowed. She stated the State needs to come up with something to identify if the dog is a service dog. She stated Walmart allows dogs that are not service dogs in their stores. Ms. Rodgers stated it was bad business allowing dogs to sit in carriages.

Dave Strauch stated service dogs should have vests on them.

Ms. Silk stated it is a common problem because at the Hospital Street Fair people try to bring their dogs onto the fairgrounds.

Ms. Silk stated to ask the policemen at the fairgrounds to talk to the people. She stated if it is a service dog then it has a card stating it is a service dog.

Ms. Rodgers stated Walmart will not do anything about it.

Ms. Rodgers stated colleges are allowing pets because people are saying they have anxiety issues.

Ms. Silk stated if there is a problem at the fair then people should go to the police officer on duty.

Ms. Rodgers stated her problem is with dogs in the food stores.

Ms. Rodgers stated dogs are carriers of strep throat.

Chairman Strauch stated service dogs should be wearing vests and should be walking.

Ms. Rodgers agreed.

Ms. Rodgers questioned if Alan Fredersickson was going to remain as an Alternate Member.

Ms. Silk stated he needs to decide if he is going to sign up again.

Ms. Rodgers stated he has not attended many meetings lately.

Ms. Silk stated that is up to the individual.

Ms. Rodgers questioned if attendance was a requirement.

Ms. Silk stated there is nothing about attendance in our by-laws and everyone is appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

- **Next Meeting Date**

The Commission discussed the date of the next meeting and it was decided to hold it on March 1st.

It was moved by Sarah Silk and seconded by Blair Moody to adjourn at 8:01 PM. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Chamberlain
Recording Secretary