

Wolfeboro Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2018
7:00 PM
Unapproved

Members present: Chairman Lawreen Strauch, Vice Chairman Sarah Silk,
Selectmen's Representative Dave Senecal, David Strauch, Charles
Horsken, Marge Strunk and Macy Gotthardt

Alternates present: Blair Moody, Matthew Plache and Bree Schuette

Alternates absent: Alan Fredrickson

Members absent: Wendy Rodgers

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Consideration of Minutes

➤ **March 1, 2017 (Regular Meeting)**

It was moved by Marge Strunk and seconded by Vice Chairman Silk to accept the minutes of March 1, 2018 as written. Charles Horsken abstained. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Commission Business

➤ **New Members**

Chairman Strauch had all members introduce themselves to new members, Macy Gotthardt and Matthew Plache.

A. Update Member Contact List

The Commission updated the member contact list by providing correct email and telephone numbers.

➤ **Vote on Officers**

Chairman Strauch assigned alternate member, Bree Schuette to fill in for member, Wendy Rodgers which allowed Ms. Schuette the right to vote.

It was moved by Charles Horsken and seconded by Marge Strunk to appoint Lawreen Strauch as the Chairman and Sarah Silk as the Vice Chairman for a one year term for the Agricultural Commission. Members voted and being none opposed the motion passed.

➤ **Meeting Dates for 2018**

The Commission discussed meeting dates for 2018. They decided on the following dates: June 7th, September 6th, November 1st, and December 6th. Meetings will be at the Community Center at 7:00 PM.

Vice Chairman Silk stated next month we hope to have some guest speakers, Doug Smithwood (Letter to the Editor – local farmers), Sue Wingate (Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission), and Peter Goodwin (Representative of the Master Plan).

➤ **Old Business**

A. Book

Chairman Strauch stated the book “The 100 years of NH Farm Bureau” was purchased for \$20.00 with the proceeds from the showing of the movie “Forgotten Farms”. We donated it to the Wolfeboro Public Library.

Vice Chairman Silk stated it is a wonderful book and has great pictures of old farms. We used this book to help with the presentation of the movie “Forgotten Farms” last year.

B. July 4th Parade

Chairman Strauch stated No View Farm and Alan Fredrickson volunteered at the last meeting to participate in the parade.

Mr. Horsken stated he would check with his wife.

Ms. Strunk, Ms. Schuette, Ms. Gotthardt and Vice Chairman Silk stated they would help with the Fourth of July float.

C. Farm Tours

Ms. Schuette stated Mr. Fredrickson was concerned at our last meeting about opening up his farm because of some new animal cruelty laws. The newest version of the animal cruelty bill does not apply to livestock so hopefully that would eliminate his concerns. She did not feel there was any additional risk to have Farm Day because most of the farms are already open to the public.

Mr. Horsken stated we have been having Open Farm Day for at least 5 years. He stated he was covered under his insurance to have people visit his farm.

Chairman Strauch stated No View Farm had a lot of visitors last year and it was hard to keep up with them. She felt more help would be needed if they were to have Farm Day again.

Mr. Horsken stated we allowed ten people in a group. There was a sign posted that stated we were showing a group around and we would be back in a few minutes to take the next group.

Mr. Plache asked if the visitors were local people or tourists.

Ms. Silk stated there were a lot of local people with kids.

Ms. Gotthardt asked when Farm Day was held.

Ms. Silk stated the first Sunday in August.

Ms. Gotthardt stated then there will be a lot of tourists.

Mr. Horsken stated he thought the visitors were 50% local people and 50% tourists.

Ms. Schuette suggested having passport cards and advertising in the hotels in Town.

Chairman Strauch stated in the past people have complained about the length of time. They felt not enough time was given to visit all the farms in one day.

Ms. Horsken stated the new marketing manager at the Wolfeboro Inn is very active with getting the hotel to participate in events to increase business.

Chairman Strauch stated the date for Farm Day will be August 5th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Ms. Schuette stated we have a meeting in June so we could go over Farm Day at that meeting.

Farms participating will be: Bly Farm, No View Farm, Top of the Hill Farm, Brown Ridge Farm and the Delphe's Farm.

Ms. Strunk stated she would think about participating.

Mr. Plache stated his farm was passed DeVlyder's Farm but he would think about participating.

Ms. Gotthardt stated there is a state law about horses. She has a sign posted on her property that states if you set foot on this property then it is at your own risk.

Mr. Horsken stated during Farm Day he explains the difference between organic gardens and certified organic gardens. His farm is certified and his number is 57.

➤ **New Business**

Vice Chairman Silk stated the BOS have a tax deeded property for sale. When this happens the Conservation Commission, the Ag Commission, the Planning Board and the Parks and Recreation Department are asked if they might have a use for the property before it is sold. The piece of property is at 58 Keewaydin Road, Tax Map 172, Lot 49. It is a one story ranch with approximately 1.1077 acres of land.

The Ag Commission did not think it would be of interest to them.

Mr. Horsken stated it would be nice if some land becomes available to use it for more gardens.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Silk and seconded by Charlie Horsken to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they sell the property on 58 Keewaydin Road because the Ag

Commission does not see a need for the property. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Ms. Schuette stated when she was walking downtown yesterday the manager of the Farmers' Market asked if the Ag Commission had any concerns given the concerns that Mr. DeVlyder had last year.

Vice Chairman Silk stated the Town cannot dictate to the Farmers' Market and the State calls things local as long as it was grown in the State of NH. The Board of Selectmen did talk to them last year about posting signs if their product was not local.

Ms. Schuette stated the manager told her they would be enforcing this rule.

Vice Chairman Silk stated last year local people were not being included.

Mr. Horsken stated his wife was on a waiting list at first and eventually she got in but she was upset about this at first.

Ms. Gotthardt asked if a person signs up for the Farmers' Market are they committing to the whole season.

Chairman Strauch stated it is a big commitment.

Ms. Schuette stated if we have any concerns this year Robin, Representative of the Farmers' Market would like us to call her.

Ms. Schuette stated two different people asked her about a Town compost pile.

Mr. Strauch stated they have a compost pile at the dump.

➤ **Adjournment**

It was moved by Charlie Horsken and seconded by Bree Schuette to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Chamberlain

Recording Secretary