

Meeting Minutes: 7/19/2021

FINAL

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Lisa Cote (alternate) **Absent:** Hank Brandt, Dieter Ebert, Phil Thayer, Walter Nordstrom (alternate)

1. Opened meeting at 7:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 6/21/2021 as amended.

1st: J. Ganotis

2nd: A. Prior

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: L. Cote visited the Community Garden and recommended that everyone take a walk through, as the gardens are looking great this year. The blueberry bushes planted at the garden are not doing very well, and the commission discussed replacing them with perennial flower beds to attract pollinators. A few of the plots are not being maintained and are filling with weeds, A. Prior will follow up on this. One couple who has been maintaining a garden plot for many years may not be able to continue tending their garden. The other gardeners have been maintaining their plot in their absence, and should they not return to the garden, the other gardeners wish to turn this plot into a tribute garden. The commission discussed this and is fully in support. The vegetables grown in this plot could perhaps be donated to a local charity to support the greater community by providing fresh food.

3b. Master plan goals: The NHPL Landscape Advisory Committee has not had another meeting yet. A. Prior and L. Cote will provide updates. Work is underway on grading and other site improvements. Hopefully the committee will be meeting again in August to see what the next steps are.

A. Prior had 50 brochures printed at Staples. Copies will be placed at the North Hampton Public Library, the Town Clerk's Office, and the Town Hall. A few copies will also be placed at local agricultural businesses.

The barn talk and barn tour that had originally been planned for 2020 but were cancelled due to the pandemic will not be taking place in 2021. The Agricultural Commission has expressed interest in continuing support of these events alongside the Historical Society and is tentatively planning on holding them in 2022.

The commission discussed potential future topics. Replacing the blueberries at the Community Garden could be accomplished this fall or in the spring of 2022. The commission will also look into the possibility of having honey bees at the Community Garden again, should it be able to locate someone to care for them. The commission will also look into organizing a visit to the Community Garden for a group from the North Hampton School.

3c. Land Use Boards Meeting: The Land Use Boards annual meeting took place on June 24th, 2021 at 6:00pm at the North Hampton Town Hall. A. Prior and D. Ebert attended on behalf of the Agricultural Commission. The other boards were very interested in the Community Garden and how it's doing. D. Ebert asked about the proposed Noise Ordinance. The Planning Board said that while they were involved, it is really a Select Board effort. It would have to be placed on the ballot as a warrant article to be voted on by residents of the town before it could go into effect.

3d. Proposed Noise Ordinance: Commission members discussed the proposed noise ordinance and expressed concerns over its potential to impact agricultural activities.

Motion: To permit A. Prior to draft and submit a letter to the Select Board on behalf the Agricultural Commission to explain the Agricultural Commission's concerns regarding the noise ordinance and request an exemption for Agricultural Activities.

1st: J. Ganotis

2nd: L. Cote

Motion passed unanimously

4. New Business

4a. School Greenhouse Update: L. Cote said that the School Greenhouse Plant Sale did very well and sold out of plants very quickly.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: August 16, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office