

NORTH HAMPTON AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES - 9/18/17 - FINAL

Present: Dieter Ebert (Chair), Walter Nordstrom, Lisa Cote and Joan Ganotis

Absent: Hank Brandt, Bobbi Burns and Cindy Jenkins

Meeting called to order at 7:18 p.m.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Unable to approve previous meeting minutes due to a lack of quorum of members who had attended the previous meeting. Minutes will be approved at our next meeting in October.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Community Garden

Picnic Table - Lisa has located a carpenter who will build a picnic table (for use at the community garden) out of pressure-treated wood which should be better quality and last longer than those she has seen locally.

Fall Cleanup - It was decided to send out a reminder to gardeners to start fall cleanup of their gardens and then send a second reminder in about a month. Cindy will be contacted as she has the master list of gardeners. Lisa said in general the garden was in good shape though some gardeners have let the weeds get out of control.

Water Shutoff - Walter asked when the water would be shut off for the season at the community garden. Cindy, who was not present, would know and would be asked.

b. Farmer's Market - Hank was not present so we did not have an update on his efforts to have a farmer's market on the Governor Dale property.

c. 275th Town Anniversary - Lisa will attend the next meeting on Wed., Sept. 20, in Cindy's absence. There was some discussion of providing food for those who brought tractors to the airfield for our display, and it was decided for Lisa to bring up the issue at the 275th meeting to see what the committee members thought and if they would contribute.

Dieter has been asked to bring some pumpkins for sale to the community garden on the anniversary weekend of Oct. 14.

Cindy, Lisa and Walter will be present at some point at the airfield on our tractor display day of Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

d. Barn Survey - Joan Ganotis informed members that one person had contacted her to volunteer after the Friday Folder request for volunteers to help conduct a town-wide barn survey. She passed around a letter she plans to send to the first batch of potential barn survey owners and all thought the letter was appropriate. Joan presented two receipts for reimbursement - one from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for a Harrisville Sampler Tour on June 10, 2017 which included two 19th century barns which had been renovated, including new foundations, and the second was from a class offered by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) on New England Barns: Their

History and Structures on 5/8 and 5/13/17. The NH Preservation Alliance receipt was \$35., and the OLLI receipt was \$40. Walter made a motion that we approve these receipts for reimbursement to Joan and the motion was seconded by Lisa. Motion passed unanimously.

e. School greenhouse - Lisa reported there is a new greenhouse manager - Joel (Mr. H). He had been at the school previously 3 yrs. ago and is back working in some capacity in the school as well as managing the greenhouse. An after-school garden club is in the works. It will be run by the teachers and Lisa will help. It may initially be limited to 12 students but there will be 3 seasons of activities in the fall, spring and summer. It may not always be growing plants but also identifying weeds, perennials, etc. There is a man coming to speak on hydroponics. The greenhouse committee meets monthly.

NEW BUSINESS

Ag Comm calendar - Dieter spoke briefly of his plan to have an Ag Comm calendar which will have important dates for all members to know and be able to access, such as community garden startup and shutdown dates, regular meeting dates, other board meeting dates when they concern Ag, budgetary deadlines, etc. This will be discussed in greater detail at our next meeting.

Dieter mentioned that the Planning Board is once again discussing accessory structures/barns. Any structure larger than 2,400 s.f. would require a variance/special permit. He said it is important that we are aware of what other town boards are considering that may affect agriculture in town. He specifically asked at the last Land Use Meeting that the Agriculture Commission be consulted on issues in our domain.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Joan made the motion; seconded by Lisa. Approved unanimously.

Submitted by Joan Ganotis. Next meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office.