

Meeting Minutes: 8/16/2021

DRAFT

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

1. Opened meeting at 7:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 7/19/2021 as amended.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: Several of the gardeners renting plots at the community garden reached out to say that they had had produce stolen from their garden. Several gardeners were there when someone started going from garden to garden taking vegetables. These gardeners confronted the person, who was not a member of the community garden. The gardeners wanted to see if anything could be done about this.

Members of the commission discussed the problem and determined that there is not much that the Agricultural Commission can do about this. The commission cannot install a gate or anything that would block public access as the garden is located on conservation land that is open to the public. If someone is stealing from the property than gardeners can get the authorities involved. The Agricultural Commission is fine with the gardeners putting up a sign if they wish. This may or may not deter thievery, but if the gardeners wish to make and install a sign then the commission has no problem with that.

3b. Master plan goals: Brochures have been distributed to several municipal buildings and agricultural businesses around North Hampton and in surrounding towns. Commission members discussed other potential places to put out brochures and will work on distributing these before the next meeting.

3c. Proposed Noise Ordinance: A. Prior submitted a letter to the Select Board expressing the commission's concerns over impacts to agricultural producers due to the proposed noise ordinance.

4. New Business

4a. Fall Newsletter: Commission members feel that it is important to make the public aware of the work involved in being a farmer, and to show that farming is still active in North Hampton. P. Ford suggested conducting interviews with farmers as a way to show what life is like for farmers in our community. The commission decided to make this a series of future newsletter articles, with this fall's submission being an intro to the project. The fall newsletter submission is due Sept. 14.

4b. FY23 Budget Proposal: Budget proposals are typically due in September. Commission members discussed the need for additional funds in order expand the community garden, as well as provide educational opportunities to meet the goals outlined in the master plan Agricultural chapter. A. Prior will write up and submit the proposal once requested.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

1st: L. Cote

2nd: P. Thayer

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: September 20, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office