

North Hampton Agricultural Commission

MEETING MINUTES - 7/16/18 - FINAL

Present: Dieter Ebert, Chair; Cindy Jenkins, Joan Ganotis, Lisa Cote, David Buchanan

Absent: Bobbi Burns, Walter Nordstrom, Hank Brandt

The meeting was opened at 7:07 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from 6/18/18

1st: D. Buchanan

2nd: J. Ganotis

Old Business

a. Old Home Days - After discussion, it was decided that there was not enough time to assemble a suitable follow-up to last year's very successful tractor display. We will plan earlier next year to produce a display appropriate to our agricultural heritage. It was suggested that perhaps the trolley might stop at or at least pass by the community garden.

b. Barn Survey - J. Ganotis stated that 4 barns had been surveyed since the last Ag Comm meeting in June, bringing the total barns surveyed to 27. Ten more letters were sent out in July to barn owners and two owners had responded to set up barn visits. Members granted approval of newspaper contact for publicity.

c. Review Master Plan for an Ag section - Members discussed the latest version of the proposed Ag Comm section for the Master Plan. B. Burns had reworked C. Jenkins' original version and members discussed at length what we wanted to keep or delete. The revised draft, with our modifications, will be discussed at our August meeting.

New Business

a. Farmland soils map - Discussion of providing a large farmland soils map showing prime agricultural soils in town. Rockingham Planning Commission has maps available on their website but it is not known whether a larger map is available (on the order of the maps under glass in the stone building).

b. There was discussion of expanding community gardens to other areas of town including working with the Conservation Commission to plant permaculture (fruit trees or bushes) in suitable areas on conservation land, if appropriate and allowed.

c. land in Current Use - It was suggested that the Ag Comm review land in current use to see what is included and if any new land has been added in recent years. C. Jenkins mentioned there is a current use board that meets yearly and modifies the rules for current use land.

d. haying fields - There was discussion of haying fields, conservation land or other, in order to keep them open and the forest from encroaching. With small scattered plots of land, it may be difficult to find a farmer who is interested. D. Buchanan had someone in mind who might be interested.

e. new draft of accessory structures ordinance - Since the time was getting late, there was a brief discussion of this new draft which was received the day of the meeting. It appeared to be more Ag friendly than the previous version, but there were still some modifications we would like to see. It was noted the Planning Board will be having a work session this week where this ordinance will be discussed. Ag Comm would like to meet with Planning Board Chair T. Harned for further discussions.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

1st: L. Cote

2nd: D. Ebert

Submitted by J. Ganotis

Next Meeting: August 17, 2018; 7 p.m.; Town Clerk's Office