

**Meeting Minutes: 10/15/18 DRAFT**

**Present:** Dieter Ebert (Chair), Hank Brandt, David Buchanan, Lisa Cote, Joan Ganotis, Cindy Jenkins

**Absent:** Bobbi Burns (non member, secretary), Walter Nordstrom (alternate)

Opened meeting at 7:08 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Approved minutes from 9/17/18

1<sup>st</sup>: C. Jenkins

2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Cote

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Master Plan draft Ag section - At the 9/17/18 meeting, Planning Board Chair Tim Harned agreed to pass along our request to include an Agricultural Commission section/chapter in the Master Plan to the proper channels. After some time, we received an informal opinion from the Planning and Zoning Board Administrator that there was not "a need for an entire agriculture section for the Master Plan." Mr. Harned and another PB member seemed to agree that "issues related to agriculture should be inserted in relevant spots in any of the applicable chapters or sections of the MP." The consensus of the members of the Agricultural Commission is that we disagree with this opinion. While we plan to suggest inserting issues related to agriculture in the two sections currently being updated, we also plan to further investigate having an Agriculture section in the Master Plan similar to several other towns. This issue will be further discussed at our November meeting.

b. School Greenhouse- Lisa reported there will be a meeting this coming Wed. Since more members have joined this group, they have had to change to a larger location for meetings. Portland Glass will be/has looked at the damaged roof panel. Hank would like to contact his source to get the job done. Lisa and Hank will coordinate this matter.

Every class will be planting something this school year. The spring plant sale will return. Lisa would like to have an evening plant sale as well to accommodate those who work during the day. She would also like to grow some plants from seed rather than plugs which are costly. Lisa will find out the budget for the school greenhouse at the meeting.

c. Barn Survey - Joan reported that no barns were surveyed since our Sept. meeting. One survey was postponed due to downpours and has not yet been rescheduled. There has been one new contact from the community newsletter article and three pending surveys to be scheduled. 32 barns have been surveyed to date.

d. Community Garden - Cindy has contacted Mr. Hubbard re shutting off the water supply for the winter but he has not responded yet. Hank inquired about the hoop house. It was the Chair's understanding that Bobbi was to ask for Select Board approval to sell the hoop house. Fuller Gardens, who had donated the hoop house, does not want it back and gave their approval to sell it. Once we received SB approval, we can advertise it in local ag-related sources. It is hoped to have this matter settled before another winter.

There was some confusion about Conservation Commission's discussion of mowing at the community garden. Cindy clarified they pay someone to mow the lower field only, not around the gardens.

Hank asked Cindy if she could come up with an annual summary of the community garden which might include how much income was gained and how much local food was produced. It was suggested to ask the gardeners for an estimate of how much food they picked this year. Four new gardens were added this year and they were actively gardened. The new experimental border of native wildflower/pollinator plants grew and bloomed.

e. Farmers Market - Hank reported that he and his wife and Southeast Land Trust will be going to mediation on 10/17/18 in Manchester. This is a non-binding meeting with a retired judge as mediator and the hope is the two parties can come to a mutually agreeable decision without the need for a court case. The Agricultural Commission sent a letter of support to Hank's lawyer which was appreciated.

**New Business**

Hank asked if other members were also members of the Farm Bureau. Both Lisa and David are members. There was a brief discussion of the benefits of membership.

Accessory Structure Proposed Ordinance - Members received the latest version of this proposed ordinance shortly before our meeting. While there were some improvements after our discussion with Mr. Harned, we still have concerns about the required setbacks on large properties in R2 (less densely populated) districts. Dieter reported there will be a Planning Board work session Tues., 10/16 where this ordinance will be discussed.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup>: J. Ganotis

2<sup>nd</sup>: D. Buchanan

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by J. Ganotis. Next Meeting: Monday, November 19, 2018; 7:00 pm, Town Clerk's Office