

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Dieter Ebert, Hank Brandt, Lisa Cote (alternate), and Cindy Jenkins (alternate); Allyson Ryder (non-member). **Absent:** Phil Thayer, Walter Nordstrom (alternate), Bobbi Burns (non-member, secretary)

1. Opened meeting at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 10/19/2020 as written.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: The water at the community garden was turned off and the lines winterized the second week of November. Commission members discussed the possibility of working with the town to choose an earlier date to have the water turned off, as some gardeners expressed concern about the water being left on into November and the potential for the lines freezing. At the request of the gardeners the Commission also discussed mowing the interior of the garden, how to handle the disposal of diseased plants so as not to spread these diseases within the garden, and the possibility of a sign displaying both “public rules” and “gardener rules” so that expectations within the garden space are clear. These issues will continue to be discussed throughout the off season. At the request of one of the gardeners members of the Agricultural Commission will also plan to visit the garden before gardening begins in the spring to assess the size of the plots, as it has been brought to the Commission’s attention that one is under sized. A. Prior will speak with the Conservation Commission about the possibility of requiring hunters to notify the town or the Agricultural Commission of their intent to park at the Community Garden, as the unfamiliar vehicles were of concern to some of the gardeners still utilizing their plots into October and November.

Agricultural Commission members also discussed the Commission’s level of involvement at the Community Garden, expressing its desire to remain largely hands-off in day-to-day operations and to minimize the level of services provided. The Commission also discussed the plot fee in relation to the level of service, and how that fee may need to be adjusted if additional services are required (such as professionally mowing the interior of the garden where the town’s equipment cannot go).

3b. Community Newsletter Topics: The next Community Newsletter will be due in January. The commission discussed potential topics such as: Winter Farmer’s market locations/dates/times, ways in which agriculture continues into the winter months/what agriculture in winter looks like, encouraging everyone to ask local restaurants whether they use local products (such as meat or produce from local farms), and topics covered at the annual Farm & Forest Expo. A. Prior will write a draft newsletter article to be discussed at the December meeting.

The commission would also like to state that Phil Thayer authored the article in the Fall Community Newsletter and apologizes for his name being incorrect in that newsletter.

3c. Coastal Adaptation Master Plan Project Steering Committee update: The steering committee has had one meeting where the project was introduced and preliminary thoughts on the impacts of sea level rise and warming climate were collected from members. Future meeting will elaborate on the initial brainstorm from the first meeting and a public

information session will be scheduled for December or January. Two more meetings of the steering committee are currently scheduled, one in November and one in December.

3d. Annual Report: J. Ganotis will write a draft and A. Prior and B. Burns will help finalize the report. Things that should be incorporated include this years success at and the possible expansion of the North Hampton Community Garden, progress towards the goals that the Agricultural Commission laid out in the Agricultural Chapter of the Master Plan, and changes to the Commission's membership.

3e. Master Plan Goals: The Agricultural Commission would like to thank L. Cote and the North Hampton Public Library for hosting "Read to a Chicken." This event helped introduce agriculture to children in our community, helping to meet our goal of educating the public about agriculture.

4. New Business

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

1st: J. Ganotis

2nd: H. Brandt

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: Dec. 21, 2020; 7:00 p.m.; Town Clerk's Office