

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Dieter Ebert, Cindy Jenkins (alternate). **Absent:** Hank Brandt, Phil Thayer, Lisa Cote (alternate), 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 1/18/2021 as written.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: The commission will continue working on the issues of compost and signage at the community garden, and at least one member will go and measure the gardens to ensure that they are the original dimensions. This measuring will take place before the March meeting if weather permits, otherwise it will be done before the April meeting. Commission members would like to continue the discussion of what services the commission intends to provide at the community garden, with the general conversation being that the Agricultural Commission should remain as hands off as possible in the day-to-day activities at the garden. An email will be going out to anyone who had a garden last year in order to make a preliminary list of who is returning and what garden spaces, if any, will be available for the 2021 growing season. Sign ups will then commence in March and will follow the same procedure as last year, with the signed waiver and payment being mailed in to the Town of North Hampton.

3b. Master plan goals - Brochure update: A. Prior had circulated the current version of the brochure for members to review. The commission discussed ideas for photos and topics to be covered. A. Prior will prepare a draft with the new photos and topics to be discussed and further revised at the March meeting.

3c. Coastal Adaptation Master Plan Project Steering Committee update: A public information session was held on Jan. 28th. This public information session shared some of the science about coastal impacts, explained the goals and purpose of the master plan chapters, and sought public input. A website is being created for this master plan project, and will contain links to the resources discussed to make this information more accessible. Turnout for the public information session was greater than expected and overall, the event was successful in educating and providing an opportunity for input.

4. New Business

4a. Budget: The Agricultural Commission discussed the budget for the current fiscal year and the Agricultural Fund which will allow appropriations to carry over from one fiscal year to the next. This will help the Agricultural Commission complete projects such as the community garden expansion, though it may take several years to collect enough funds in order to accomplish this project. Funds from the Community Garden will continue to go into the Town's general fund, offsetting the Agricultural Commission's annual budget.

4b. Miscellaneous: The Farm & Forest Expo will be taking place virtually this year, with new events being held periodically throughout the year covering a variety of topics.

RiverWoods in Exeter has an Agricultural Program. Goats kept on the premises eat poison ivy and weeds, and also serve as therapy animals. Wildflower plantings sustain honeybees, which are also housed on the premises and provide up to 100 pounds of honey each year. These plantings also provide food for numerous other pollinators.

Commission members also wanted to express their condolences to the family of Dick Wollmar, who recently passed away. Mr. Wollmar was a founding member of the North Hampton Agricultural Commission and the commission thanks him for his service.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: Mar. 15, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; Town Clerk's Office