

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

1. Opened meeting at 7:07 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 1/17/2022 as written.

1st: J. Ganotis

2nd: A. Prior

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: A. Ryder provided an update from the 2021 growing season at the North Hampton Community Garden. There were issues with pests and plant diseases, made worse by the weather last year. Overall, it was a pretty good year though, and the gardens were generally successful. There was more mowing needed due to the excess rainfall causing the grass to grow rapidly. There was a hornet's nest under one of the benches last year, and the gardeners would like clarification on who addresses those issues. P. Thayer said that he could take care of things like that. The water spigots are leaking. A. Prior will contact the North Hampton Dept. of Public Works to see how this issue should be addressed. One of the gardeners who has been a part of the North Hampton Community Garden from the beginning has a lovely garden and maintains it very nicely. The gardeners expressed their wish to make this a tribute garden and to continue to maintain it in their name when they are no longer able to use the plot themselves. The Agricultural Commission expressed their support for this idea. A. Ryder also mention areas of wild plant growth on the outskirts of the garden that are providing habitat for wildlife such as rabbits that cause problems in the garden. The Agricultural Commission will discuss possible ways of dealing with this over the next several meetings and will likely schedule a site walk for April in order to see these problem areas.

Garden sign ups this year will be held in person, with an option to mail in payment and a waiver for those who are not able to attend in person or are not comfortable doing so. A. Prior will contact the North Hampton Public Library about using their large meeting room and will work with them to select one evening and one Saturday when sign ups will be held. Each meeting will be one hour. A. Ryder would like to have out a sheet for the gardeners to arrange a seedling exchange as well. One of the gardeners had mentioned to A. Prior that she wishes to donate a gas card to help with the mowing. A. Ryder can arrange this as well if the gardeners wish to organize this during the sign-up days.

L. Cote will look at her gardens and see what plants she has that can be transferred to the North Hampton Community Garden. J. Ganotis discussed the importance of pollinators gardens as well as the inclusion of trees and shrubs for pollinators in the overall landscape. The Agricultural Commission may wish to purchase additional plants for the pollinator garden to supplement what L. Cote has. Water sources are also important for pollinators. The commission may want to consider hosting a speaker to talk about pollinators.

3b. Goals for 2022: None of the goals in the Agricultural chapter of the Master Plan have a completion year of 2022. The commission discussed possibly focusing on speakers this year and providing education to the public.

3c. Barn Tour and Talk: There is nothing currently that the Agricultural Commission needs to do. Mr. John Porter has confirmed for the Barn Talk. The Barn Tour currently has four barns on the schedule, and a bus has been reserved. A

New Hampshire Humanities grant has been awarded that will cover Mr. Porter's fee for the Barn Talk. The Commission will need to cover Mr. Porter's mileage fee.

3d. Newsletter articles/"Interview with a Farmer" project: The next newsletter should be due in May. L. Cote and P. Ford will work on the next article.

3e. North Hampton School Greenhouse: The greenhouse is being utilized and has plants growing in it.

3f. North Hampton Little Boars Head Coastal Hazards Master Plan Chapter Steering Committee: The steering committee held its final meeting. The draft chapters will be going to the North Hampton Planning Board and the Little Boars Head Planning Board at the beginning of March for final revisions and approval.

3g. North Hampton Public Library (NHPL) Landscape Advisory Committee: The library trustees are considering the Landscape Advisory Committees request to purchase elevated planter beds for the patio. A. Prior and L. Cote are hoping to work with the Youth Librarian to put together a program that would utilize the elevated planter beds to grow vegetables and flowers.

4. New Business

4a. Membership: Regular members A. Prior, J. Ganotis, and H. Brandt, and alternate members L. Cote, P. Ford, and W. Nordstrom all have terms expiring in 2022. A. Prior, J. Ganotis, and P. Ford expressed interest in remaining on the Agricultural Commission. L. Cote will not be continuing on. The Agricultural Commission thanks L. Cote for her many years of service and her contributions to agriculture in North Hampton. A. Prior will contact H. Brandt and P. Ford will contact W. Nordstrom to see if they wish to be re-appointed. The commission will vote on re-appointments at the next meeting.

4b. Records Storage: J. Ganotis heard from Cindy Jenkins that she has boxes of documents from her time serving on the Agricultural Commission. Commission members discussed the need to find a place to store these records and perhaps digitize them so that they can be more readily available. J. Ganotis is planning to meet with C. Jenkins to see how much material she has to be moved to storage and digitized.

4c. Noise Ordinance: P. Ford attended the town Deliberative Session on February 5, 2022. The proposed noise ordinance had not been amended as the Agricultural Commission had requested to include an exemption for agricultural activities. P. Ford voiced the need for this exemption and the noise ordinance was amended at Deliberative Session to provide the requested exemption.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

1st: L. Cote

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: March 21, 2022; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office