

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

1. Opened meeting at 7:06 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 2/15/2021 as written.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously, with L. Cote and P. Thayer abstaining.

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: A. Prior contacted gardeners from last year. A majority will be returning to the Community Garden this year. Three half plots are currently available, and two gardeners have not yet confirmed whether they will be returning to garden again this year. L. Cote and C. Jenkins have received inquiries about availability of garden plots from three people. Once the final two returning gardeners respond, the available plots will be offered to those on the waitlist.

A. Ryder attended the meeting to continue discussions started in the fall. Mowing continues to be a topic of discussion, with the decision being to see how the gardeners can work this task out amongst themselves for this gardening season, and if it is not able to be resolved internally to consider other options at that point in time. Some sort of reward or subsidy for those who take on this task may be considered. A. Ryder brought up the possibility of hosting a spring clean up day at the garden so that gardeners can interact. There is plenty of room for social distancing. A. Ryder requested that members of the Agricultural Commission be present if possible. This would also serve as an opportunity to educate gardeners on issues such as composting, plant diseases, and other important issues. The water is generally turned on mid-April to early May and is dependent on temperatures and weather. Compost/ leaf material is usually delivered around this same time. There is still a hole in the chain link fence running along Rt 111/Exeter Road. A. Prior will reach out to DOT about getting this fixed.

Commission members decided that the April meeting of the Agricultural Commission should be held at the Community Garden in order to address some of these issues on site.

3b. Master plan goals – Edible landscaping at the North Hampton Public Library: The NHPL is forming a Landscape Advisory Committee to help them prioritize their landscape plan. A. Prior and L. Cote will be working with the committee to promote edible landscaping. The committee is currently in the preliminary stages and has not begun meeting yet. The Agricultural Commission briefly began brainstorming ideas for the landscape design, such as a sensory garden, as well as ideas on how to pay for it, such as requesting donations for plantings to be done in memoriam. Boy Scout Troop 162 has reached out to P. Thayer in the past for volunteer opportunities and may be interested in assisting with installation. Commission members will brainstorm and bring additional ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.

3b cont. Master plan goals – Brochure update: Commission members agreed that all the photos should be updated, so one more new photo will need to be chosen before the brochure is finalized.

4. New Business

4a. Membership: C. Jenkins term expires in 2021. This topic will be continued to the next meeting as C. Jenkins was not able to attend. A member of the public has also expressed interest in becoming part of the commission.

4b. NHS Greenhouse: L. Cote shared the minutes from the North Hampton School Greenhouse Stewards meeting. Several grades are growing vegetables in the greenhouse, and one student is doing an independent study growing flowers. The greenhouse may host their plant sale this year, details are still being worked out. The misting system is not currently working, but they are hopeful to be able to use it again this year.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

1st: L. Cote

2nd: A. Prior

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: Apr. 19, 2021; 6:00 p.m.; North Hampton Community Garden