

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Phil Thayer, Pollyanna Ford (alternate)

Absent: Dieter Ebert, Hank Brandt, Walter Nordstrom (alternate)

1. Opened meeting at 7:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 3/21/2022 as amended.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: Two sign up events were held and more than half of the gardeners attended either the Thursday evening or Saturday morning sign up times to complete paperwork and provide payment for their garden plots. Attendance was much better at the Thursday evening sign up event. The rest of the gardeners are submitting payment and paperwork by mail to the Town. All but four gardeners had submitted payment already.

The Department of Public Works is going to drop off the push mower, which they had picked up for servicing over the winter. They are also going to take a look at the rototiller and see if it's something that they can fix. At the sign up nights the gardeners mentioned that it wasn't working. They think it may just be the starter cord that needs to be replaced. The water was being turned on around April 12th.

3b. Goals for 2022: The Agricultural Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$2,000, which should allow for the expansion of the community garden. This will continue to be discussed. Commission members decided to wait until Summer to update the Agricultural Commission brochure, perhaps with a barn theme.

3c. Barn Tour and Talk: The Agricultural Commission may need to be the host for these events, rather than the North Hampton Historical Society (NHHS), as the Agricultural Commission is covered by the Town's liability insurance, while the NHHS is not. The original plan was for the Agricultural Commission to host the Barn Talk, which is being paid for in part by a NH Humanities grant, while the NHHS hosted the Barn Tour. In addition to the issue of liability insurance coverage, the Agricultural Commission and NHHS also need to determine the best way to collect payments for the Barn Tour, as the original idea was to make a profit off this event to be put towards future projects. A. Prior will contact Finance Director Ryan Cornwall and Town Administrator Mike Tully and see what the best way to handle this is.

3d. Newsletter articles/"Interview with a Farmer" project: The next article should be due in May 2022. P. Ford will reach out to Lisa Cote about writing the article.

Another idea for a future articles or possible speaker topic is pests in the garden. This could be a good topic to invite a speaker from UNH to discuss. Speaker events could be hosted at the North Hampton Public Library. P. Ford will reach out to someone at UNH and see what the process is for setting up an event like this.

3e. Membership: P. Ford spoke to Walter Nordstrom and Mr. Nordstrom will not be continuing on as an alternate. The Agricultural Commission thanks Mr. Nordstrom for his service to the Commission and to the Town of North Hampton.

3f. Records Storage: J. Ganotis brought a stack of files from Cindy Jenkins. Most of the files relate to the North Hampton Community Garden or are past articles about agriculture. C. Jenkins may have more files, she will see if she can locate them. A. Prior will store these files until a more permanent storage location can be found.

3g. Land Use Boards Annual Meeting: The Annual Land Use Boards meeting will be held at the North Hampton Town Hall on June 16th. D. Ebert expressed a willingness to attend along with A. Prior as Agricultural Commission representatives. Anyone from the commission can attend and sit in the audience. The commission discussed topics to bring up and decided to focus on the Barn Talk and Tour, and the Community Garden and possible expansion.

4. New Business

None

5. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: May 16, 2022; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office