

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Dieter Ebert, Lisa Cote (member of the public)

Absent: Hank Brandt, Phil Thayer, Pollyanna Ford (alternate)

1. Opened meeting at 7:16 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 4/18/2022 as amended.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: L. Cote has a list of pollinator plants for our region for the pollinator garden that is being planted near the split rail fences at the North Hampton Community Garden. L. Cote plans to donate some of these plants from her gardens. The commission will consider purchasing additional plants if there is space left over after transplanting. L. Cote is going to reach out to the Boy Scouts to see if they would be willing to help plant the new garden. The commission also plans to move the one surviving blueberry bush from Dearborn park over to the community garden. J. Ganotis purchased a pollinator package from the NH Nursery containing a variety of trees and shrubs that are beneficial to pollinators. She offered to donate extra plants if the commission wishes to plant some of them at the community garden.

A. Prior had reached out to the Department of Public Works to see if they would be able to look at the rototiller that is kept at the community garden and see if it something that they can fix. A. Prior will follow up with them and see if they had a chance to look at it. A. Prior will also reach out to H. Brandt and P. Thayer to see if they have contacts who would be able to give the commission a quote for disking and harrowing the lower portion of the lot that the garden is located on. The commission has a waitlist for plots and is looking into the expansion of the garden for this fall.

3b. Goals for 2022: No updates.

3c. Barn Tour and Talk: A. Prior reached out to North Hampton Finance Director Ryan Cornwell about collecting ticket fees and/or donations for the Barn Tour. Only donations/gifts and appropriations can be deposited into the Agricultural Fund. Therefore, the commission would not be able to collect ticket sales. If a ticket fee was to be charged then the North Hampton Historical Society (NHHS) would need to collect it. The NHHS is looking into whether the bus company's liability coverage is sufficient to cover the event. Currently, the thought is that the NHHS and the Agricultural Commission will co-sponsor the Barn Tour and the NHHS will collect the funds and then donate half of the profits to the Agricultural Commission. One barn owner had backed out of the tour, so J. Ganotis is working on getting a new barn added. J. Ganotis is also checking with Mr. John Porter, who will be the speaker at these events, about televising the Barn Talk and bringing his books to sell.

3d. Newsletter articles/"Interview with a Farmer" project: The Summer Community Newsletter submission is due on May 23rd. Since there is not enough time for P. Ford and L. Cote to conduct an interview, this newsletter article will include blurbs about the Agricultural Commission's current activities. A. Prior will write an update on the community garden and J. Ganotis will write an announcement of the Barn Talk and Barn Tour to start advertising these events.

The interview with P. Ford will hopefully be the Fall newsletter submission. L. Cote suggested giving P. Ford a basket of note cards to write down thoughts that she may want to include in the article. L. Cote would then take the note cards and write an article from them. The commission could also write questions on the cards to give to P. Ford.

3e. Membership: Currently there are two open alternate positions. L. Cote may know someone who would be interested and will see if they can attend the next meeting.

3g. Land Use Boards Annual Meeting: The Annual Land Use Boards meeting will be held at the North Hampton Town Hall on June 16th at 6:30pm. D. Ebert and A. Prior will attend as the Agricultural Commission's representatives. Anyone from the commission can attend and sit in the audience. J. Ganotis will write up a description for A. Prior to share about the Barn Talk and Barn Tour, and A. Prior will summarize the current state of the North Hampton Community Garden, as the other boards are always interested in how the garden is doing.

4. New Business

None

5. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: June 20, 2022; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office