

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

1. Opened meeting at 7:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 4/19/2021 as written.

1st: P. Thayer

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: To approve the minutes from 5/17/2021 as written.

1st: J. Ganotis

2nd: A. Prior

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: All plots at the North Hampton Community Garden are filled and there is currently a waitlist. Current gardeners have expressed interest in renting additional plots as well. The North Hampton Dept. of Public Works donated a push mower to the garden and are mowing the outskirts of the garden to reduce the amount of mowing that the gardeners need to do themselves. The gardeners are very grateful and said that the new mower is working very well. Commission members expressed their gratitude for the Dept. of Public Works' donation.

Commission members continued a previous discussion of the fee structure at the community garden. Given the variability in the actual dimensions of the plots (versus the advertised plot sizes), commission members discussed either advertising smaller plot sizes, so that all plots are a minimum size or larger, or measuring each plot individually and charging by the square foot. This discussion will be continued and a decision will be made in the fall as to the pricing structure for 2022.

3b. Master plan goals: The NHPL Landscape Advisory Committee has not had another meeting yet. A. Prior and L. Cote will provide updates. As of the latest email communication, basic site work such as grading and hardscaping will begin in June/July, hopefully to be completed by August, when the committee next anticipates meeting.

A. Prior provided a draft of the Agricultural Commission brochure for review prior to the June meeting. P. Ford provided several photographs, which were incorporated. Commission members decided to move forward with having the brochure printed with no more revisions. A. Prior acquired pricing from Staples, as their prices were the most competitive when the commission last had a brochure printed.

Motion: To authorize A. Prior to expend up to \$75.00 to print 50 copies of the Agricultural Commission brochure.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

3c. Land Use Boards Meeting: The Land Use Boards annual meeting is being held on June 24th, 2021 at 6:00pm at the North Hampton Town Hall. A. Prior and D. Ebert will attend on behalf of the Agricultural Commission. The Agricultural Commission topics are the Agricultural Resources map and current Agricultural Commission projects. Commission members also decided that communication between boards is another topic that should be brought up, as it's important for the boards to be able to easily find out what other boards are working on.

4. New Business

4a. Proposed Noise Ordinance: D. Ebert brought it to the commission's attention that the Select Board has been discussing a possible new noise ordinance that may have impacts to agricultural activities. Commission members discussed the latest draft of the noise ordinance and agreed that there should be an exemption for agricultural activities, as the current language and activities described in the ordinance could impact farmers who begin their work early in the morning and often must continue into the night. This includes loading and unloading, running tractors and other farm equipment, etc. Commission members requested that A. Prior and D. Ebert discuss the noise ordinance with the other boards at the land use summit and find out where it is in the process of approval.

P. Ford discussed how many people don't understand the activities taking place on a farm or the amount of work that goes into farming for a living. She suggested that the commission should do "meet your farmer" events for the public to be able to hear from farmers directly and ask questions. This could also be a good newsletter topic for the future, with articles featuring interviews with different farmers in town.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: P. Thayer

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: July 19, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office