

Meeting Minutes: 9/20/2021 **FINAL**

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

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

2. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes from 8/16/2021 as amended.

1st: L. Cote

2nd: J. Ganotis

Motion passed unanimously

3. Old Business

3a. Community Garden: A. Prior has not heard of further issues with stealing. Mowing of the garden by the Town of North Hampton DPW was delayed due to rain, but the DPW will continue to include mowing around the exterior of the garden in their schedule. The Agricultural Commission thanks the DPW for making time in their busy schedules to do this work at the garden.

3b. Master plan goals: Blueberry bushes at Dearborn Park. J. Ganotis stopped in to check on the bushes. There were lots of weeds and only one of the bushes seems to be doing well, the other two bushes are struggling. The commission discussed what could be causing the bushes to struggle and thinks that it's most likely due to poor soil quality or some other aspect of that location. The blueberry bushes at the Community Garden, on the other side of Rt. 111, struggled as well. If these bushes at Dearborn do not make it through the winter, the commission would not plant more at this location as they likely would struggle as well.

Blueberry bushes at the Community Garden. These bushes have struggled for years and most do not appear to have survived. As this location does not seem to provide the conditions for proper long-term growth, the commission will smother the area of grass and weeds and plant perennials in the spring to make a pollinator garden that will be beneficial to the native insects, wildlife, and the vegetable gardens.

3c. Proposed Noise Ordinance: The letter submitted from the Agricultural Commission to the Select Board regarding the proposed noise ordinance was discussed at the August 9, 2021 meeting of the Select Board. According to the minutes from this meeting, there will be an amendment to the noise ordinance and it would go to ballot in March.

3d. Fall Newsletter: The fall newsletter was submitted on the due date of September 14th. This article introduced the "Interview with a Farmer" project and outlined why farming is important to our community. A page long version of the article was submitted, but a shorter version was requested due to space constraints. If it can be made to fit, the full length version will be included. The commission has several potential interviewees and will hopefully be able to get photographs of their farms to include in future articles as well.

3e. FY23 Budget Proposal: A. Prior received the request for budget proposals, which had to be submitted by September 10th. A. Prior submitted a proposal requesting the increase to \$2,000 along with a justification for the increase.

4. New Business

4a. NHPL Landscape Advisory Committee: The committee has met since the last Agricultural Commission meeting to have a site visit and assess the landscape plan in context. The plan will be finalized at a joint meeting with the Library Trustees on September 22, 2021 so that phase 1 of the plantings can be approved and finished before the grand opening, which will hopefully be in mid-October.

4b. North Hampton School Greenhouse update: The North Hampton School Greenhouse is looking for one new greenhouse manager. They made signs for each grade to mark their plants. They are hoping to work on integrating the greenhouse into the curriculum so that it can be utilized to a greater capacity. They are working on a butterfly garden and have many ideas for fall plantings in the greenhouse. Currently they are harvesting potatoes and onions.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

1st: D. Ebert

2nd: L. Cote

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Audrey Prior. Next Meeting date & time: October 18, 2021; 7:00 p.m.; North Hampton Town Clerk's Office