

North Hampton Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes: 9/21/20 FINAL

Present: Audrey Prior (Chair), Joan Ganotis (Vice Chair), Hank Brandt, Dieter Ebert, Phil Thayer, Lisa Cote (alternate), Cindy Jenkins (alternate), Bobbi Burns (non member, secretary), and Allyson Ryder (Community Garden Liaison)

Absent: Walter Nordstrom (alternate)

Opened meeting at 6:04 p.m. at Governor Dale Farm

Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from 8/17/20 as amended

1st: A. Prior

2nd: C. Jenkins

Motion passed, unanimously

Membership – C. Jenkins was sworn in.

Community Garden– Conservation Commission has no issue with expansion, but is verifying any potential limitations with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) which due to grants received by the town, has placed added restrictions on commercial agricultural and recreational use.

Besides plowing and harrowing the fields, discussed planting winter rye to improve soil quality. Current plan includes plowing approximately 2 acres and retaining a buffer for ease of mowing. Concern was raised that given this year's budget, this may not be possible this year. A. Prior to pursue delaying payment or going over budget by approximately \$500.

Motion: Approve expenditure of up to \$1,200 to plow, harrow, and seed; dependent on Conservation approval and town OK to exceed budget.

1st: A. Prior

2nd: D. Ebert

Motion passed unanimously.

A Ryder brought forward main issues arising from the other gardeners.

1. Animals destroying crops – gardeners will work on this themselves.
2. Non gardeners coming into the garden and helping themselves to crops – requesting signage.
3. Pruning back trees shading some gardens – gardeners would prefer DOT to fix the fence, but leave the trimming to them to ensure trimming is kept to a minimum.
4. Mowing – town needs to provide direction on what they will mow so that gardeners can create a schedule for mowing remaining areas. A. Ryder will meet with Hub next year prior to mowing starting.
5. Ticks – an open issue that requires further discussion
6. Some gardeners feel their gardens are undersized. Garden sizes are 15' x 20' and 15' x 40'. Gardeners with undersized gardens will be given a reduction in cost or an expanded plot.
7. Diseased plants and how to dispose of them – L. Cote will contact UNH Coop Ext for advice.

A Ryder is going to start a monthly newsletter between gardeners.

Town Newsletter (Goal 1) – P Thayer submitted. Next 1 is due in Jan.

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Land Use Summit (Goal 1) – A. Prior discussed progress towards goals, Community Garden, Governor Dale planned farmer’s market, and how development is impacting NH agriculture.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

1st: P. Thayer

2nd: A. Prior

Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by B. Burns. Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020; 6 p.m.; Governor Dale Farm