

11/14/2013 Dartmouth Agricultural Commission Minutes

Members present: Donna Edberg, Sandy Gosselin, Sue Guiducci, Vince Frary, Bev King, Derek Christianson, David Brownell, and Fred Dabney. Guests: Brian Medeiros, and Kristen Irvin (SEMAP).

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM

Secretary's report: The previous meeting's minutes were approved 8-0-0

Treasurer's report: Sue reported \$833.61 in the Gift Account.

David reported that the Clerk apologized for the Town Hall's being closed last month. Although we are the only group which meets on Thursdays, no other day of the week is open for all Commissioners. *Sue Guiducci was*

reaffirmed as our delegate to Open Space & Rec. Comm. 7-0-0

Right-to-Farm Signage: Sue reported that Rochester will soon be installing a cheaper version of the sign which she is looking into. Town and Dept of Transportation may be helpful.

Brian Medeiros complained that he is being singled out with excessive fee increases for his cider mill. Sue had found some information on cider mill fees in other towns. Derek suggested a general meeting between some Commissioners (Fred, Bev, Derek, and Sue) and the Board of Health regarding fee schedules in general; Sue will set that up.

Kristen presented a questionnaire regarding directions SEMAP might take in its new form, noting that she and Bridget are the only employees in the scaled-down office. Commissioners suggested that better communications are needed. The Annual Meeting should return, plus annual membership mailings, a revival of the Council, B-to-B, and Farm-to-School.

Fred reported on MDAR/ALPC issues especially the Food Safety bill, ongoing APR issues, the impact of new minimum wage increases, and HSUS.

Derek reported that he has a new house and that the Sisters have put the farm on the market unofficially.

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Sue reported that the closing on the Schofield farm will occur next Friday, and that the Con Com will hold a conservation restriction on 5 acres at Copicut Farms so that the farm will have the 51% prime soils need for and APR.

Fred will host an Atty. General candidate on Friday. He also noted that Brad Mitchell (MFBF) is trying to generate a state plumbing code board to work for agricultural standards, and needs Rep. Kennedy's support.

Sue

Sandy reported that all "farmers" are out of Robinson/Smith parcel on Old Fall River Rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Brownell, Secty

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013, 6:30 PM

Agenda:

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Issues on Town Farms

Farm Bureau report

HSUS vs Farm Bureau bills

MDAR/ALPC report

Right-to-farm signage report

Brochure report

Board of Health meeting report