

April 29, 2014

Lee Agricultural Commission

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Chuck Cox, Donna-Lee Woods, Steve Haendler, Laura Gund.

Prospective Commission member: Amanda Gourgue.

Minutes: The minutes of March 24, 2014 were accepted as read. Dwight made a motion to so move. Unanimous.

Financial Report: There is a new bookkeeping system. Everything is now in the Lee Ag. Commission account, including Farmers Market monies. Donna-Lee will have to keep everything separate.

Fair Expenses: We discussed how to handle the fair account. The legislative body has to vote to set up a Fair Trust Fund. Frank Derochhi and Mark Kustra went to the Selectmen to ask them to move the fair money into one of the Commission accounts. Frank and Mark were asked to continue for a year within this system and then write a warrant article for next year. The immediate problem is that there is no debit card for this fund. The first fair meeting will be May 6th.

Backyard Farming Initiative: The interaction at the last night's program was good. The program was "Lacto Fermented Foods." There were 36 people in attendance. Next season, there will be DVD's for sale at the meetings. There is a plan to do chicken plucking between sessions. There will be a questionnaire to hand out at the last meeting in May - "What do you want to see next year?" Some suggestions have been: "Back to Basics". Visit sites and see actual activities - gardening, different innovative programs, growing different things, foraging, poultry processing.

Brochure: As we work on the brochure, we need to make sure to add "Farmers Markets", the year of publication, Lee Fair Harvest Supper, i.e. important dates.

Ag. Commission Flyer: Hopefully the new Backyard Initiative schedule will be ready in time to do another flyer prior to the fair.

Lee Fair: The fair is now officially a town function. The lights on the light pole have been fixed. We talked about a water line

across the Dump Road with a hydrant. Chuck and Paul will do the farm games again. Chuck talked about an American Gothic competition, along with many of the same games as last year. There will be kids games this year and possibly a skillet toss! Caren Rossi and Erick went to a "Managing Volunteers" program.

Harvest Supper: Getting local food may be a problem this year. There will be a shortage of pig due to the piglet sickness. What about beef? We will stick with pork and chicken.

Griddle: Two valves are needed; one valve costs \$150. Ownership of the griddle has been in question, but apparently it turns out that Peter Hoyt and Erick own the griddle.

Membership: We invited Amanda to be an alternate member on the Agricultural Commission. Dwight moved and Donna-Lee seconded to nominate Amanda to the Commission. Passed unanimously, and Amanda accepted.

Next meeting will be May 27, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund