

December 27, 2011

Lee Agricultural Commission

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Donna Lee Woods, Paul Gasowski, Wendy Fogg, Laura Gund

Minutes: Approved as read.

Financial Report: No change since last month.

Noble Farm: The Planning Board is submitting a warrant article which would change the zoning in the Noble Farm area to light commercial/office zone. Agriculture and residential would be excluded. We would like to make changes to the warrant article to specify types of agriculture which would be suitable in this zone. Intensive agriculture/aquaculture/hydroponics – possible agricultural uses. They would be low impact. The most recent development plans for this site included residences and the Planning Board preferred not to include them. Also no retail. There will be another hearing on this on January 4th.

There is a petition going around to place an easement on Noble Farm with nothing allowed on it. Paul described the “Vermont Food Venture Center” in Hardwick, VT., as well as an eco-industrial park which could serve as examples of what might be done with Noble Farm.

There would be 40 acres in the zone, after removing the pond easement, as well as a 120’ buffer. We would like to have a plan to present to the board and ask if they could hold off for a while so further possibilities could be explored. We would like to target “value added” products, etc. and talking to folks such as Stonyfield, Stone Wall Kitchens, etc. might give us new ideas. Dwight wondered whether there were grants available.

Directory: Rick Miller has been contacted and he suggested “getting together” but there has been no further word.

Next meeting: January 31, 2012