

LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

December 30, 2014

Present: Steve Haendler, Erick Sawtelle, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney and Laura Gund

Select Board Member: Carol Dennis

Minutes: The minutes from the November 25, 2014 meeting were accepted as amended and forwarded to the town secretary for posting on the town web site.

Financial: As of November 30th, there is \$7938.28 in the account, with \$1118.18 being the Farmers Market account as of September 30th.

Backyard Farming Initiative: Chuck Cox reported that the committee had a meeting today, with a discussion about publicity. A single sheet print-out should be ready by the end of the week. There will be flyers at the Newmarket Farmers Market and other winter markets, as well as in the e-crier and the Market Bulletin. The flyers will be at local libraries and grain stores. The A-frame will be up and Erick will apply for permission to close a section of Lee Hook Road as necessary. January 26th will be the first session of this program.

Newsletter: Discussed the need for a paper newsletter going out to all the families in town. Dwight had spoken to the Selectmen about the Town Crier. Not enough information is getting out to the whole town, the e-crier goes out to less than 1000 people. It would probably cost \$1500 for mailing a newsletter. Talked about a quarterly newsletter. Laura will check with the 250th committee, the Heritage and Conservation Commissions and the Historical Society. We would need someone to put it together on a quarterly basis. Amanda Gourgue could look for grants for this project. Carol said she would be the point person for gathering information.

EOC (Emergency Operations Center). Because of the Thanksgiving power outage, many meals were served over the week-end while the power was out. They served 120 Thanksgiving dinners, plus breakfasts and other meals. (Lee cannot have a shelter as there must be 10 people in the shelter at all times.) As a result of that week-end, there is talk about remodeling the Safety Complex to make a bigger kitchen. A restaurant size stove has been donated and they are working on obtaining a freezer. A refrigerator has been donated.

Statewide: Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Gail McWilliam Jellie, Theresa Walker and Erick spoke to about 60 people at a meeting of the NH Municipal Association. About half the people there said they were looking for ways to get rid of their farms and all the problems they present. Legislation is being discussed to indemnify farmers from lawsuits.

Next month: Rundown of Backyard Farming. The Senior Advisory Committee wants to do a brunch on May 11th and would like the Ag Comm to sponsor it. We will work on the FB breakfast.

Next meeting will be January 27, 2015.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund