

LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

February 24, 2015

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Steve Haendler, Paul Gasowski, Carol Dennis, Dwight Barney, Chuck Cox, Donna Lee Woods and Laura Gund

Minutes: The January meeting was cancelled due to a blizzard (3' of snow). The minutes for the December meeting were not available at this time.

Backyard Farming Initiative: 31 people attended last night's Backyard Farming program, with Steve Haendler and LouAnne Griswold presenting a good program. We should compile a master list of videos of these programs. Donna Lee made a motion to "prepare a proposal for selling the DVD's for a suggested donation."

Organic Gardening Classes: Someone has made a proposal, wanting to present classes on organic gardening. Carol suggested he go to the Master Gardeners about this. The consensus of the board was that this would not be appropriate for us to sponsor. He would charge for the classes. As an Agricultural Commission, we promote agriculture as a whole, not just one aspect.

Financial: The Ag Commission has \$7268.93 as of 1/31/15. There is \$1318.10 in the Farmers Market.

Newsletter: It would appear that most people want a paper newsletter on a regular basis. We talked about how to pay for this – selectmen or commissions? We need someone to write it and compile it. Paul suggested we ask each commission to write an article for the first issue. Chuck feels the main thing would be articles about what the commissions are doing. Hopefully it could come out the first of June.

Memberships: Paul, Dwight and Jere Beckman's memberships are all up for renewal. Amanda Gourgue is an alternate. Dave Miner never signed his application. Erick will check with Jere as to whether he wishes to stay on the commission. Paul and Dwight will continue on – Thank You. Discussed possible new members.

Breakfast: The plan for the March 8th breakfast is basically the same as last year. Tom Dronsfield has asked D.F. Richard to supply a 100# tank of propane and they will do that. Liquid eggs will be coming from Taylor Eggs, at no charge. Bacon and sausage from Calef's. Gina Kemp got some prices from UNH for such things as diced potatoes and butter patties. Unfortunately, UNH charges a meal tax. The bread will be donated from 48 Market Street in Somersworth. Again, because of insurance purposes, only Farm Bureau members can cook. 4-H youngsters will be serving and helping in any way they are able. Paul has agreed to take photos and will send one to the e-crier to go with the breakfast article. It will also be advertised in Durham Friday updates and the NHFB events page. There will be a work crew on Saturday night to peel and cook potatoes and do other prep work.

Next meeting: March 31, 2015. Go over the last Master Plan to see what we have accomplished.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund