

February 26, 2012

Lee Agricultural Commission

Present were Donna Lee Woods, Erick Sawtelle, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Carole Dennis, Paul Gasowski, Laura Gund. Guest: Henry Brackett.

**Minutes** of January 29, 2013 were accepted as read, with the exception of the omission of Annie Gasowski's name. That will be corrected.

**Financial:** The Ag. Commission has \$5493.40 in their account and the Farmer's Market account shows \$1108.10 at this time. There was \$250 in outstanding bills.

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** These are very popular and there were 65 folks at the program on February 25<sup>th</sup>, with people of all ages. They were a good audience, interested and asked questions about the program on honey, veggies, fruits, and edible flowers. Presenters were Melissa Hollister, Joel Miller, John Carroll, Joan Celentano, Ted McCormack and Tina Sawtelle. Donna Lee has the DVD from the first presentation and we discussed what to put on the introduction page. Should it be for sale? It was suggested that maybe the "idea" of the program was the most important aspect of it – the interest, the numbers of people attending, using the Grange, local presenters, the sense of community. You Are What You Eat next month will be Meat, Chicken and Fish with Dwight acting as a resource.

**Grange:** We continued to discuss the future of our Grange. Laura said that the Heritage Commission is very concerned with this and will do what they can. Maybe we can help the Grange be more active. A pancake breakfast would be popular, using local maple syrup, honey and eggs. We could celebrate an event: i.e. Maple Day, Ag Day, a day in March to celebrate National Nutrition Month as possibilities.

**Brochures:** It would be appropriate to open up a brochure on a board for people to see at our markets. Paul will put it up on the website. We can take some to voting day. Dover Agway has used quite a few of them. We talked about a new printing of them. We would like to have a re-print of the present one for now. Laura will check to find out if we will save money by folding them ourselves. We won't sell any more ads until we have a new printing done, probably in the fall. That will be a year from the previous one, so advertisers don't have to buy two ads in one year. When we have a new printing, we should put Lee Farmer's Market on it somewhere.

**Commission Members:** Terms are up in March for Erick Sawtelle, Laura Gund and Dick Babcock. All three have said they would continue on the Commission. Donna Lee and Chuck are alternates at this time. There is a vacancy for one regular term and Donna Lee should fill that position since she is acting as our Treasurer. She agreed. There are a couple of others who have expressed interest in being on the Commission. A list will be sent to the Selectman and each individual must fill out an application for the Selectmen to see. We could have as many as 7 regular members and 5 alternates. Donna Lee will fill Tom McCabe's unexpired term, as he prefers not to continue on the Commission. Erick will speak to Dick Babcock about becoming an alternate. We also discussed whether to change our meeting date. It's difficult to find a day of the week that's convenient for everyone.

**Budgeting and Work Plan:** We talked about buying a tent, we have \$1500 in our budget that could be used for this. Erick has already looked into this, checking in with four different places: Exeter Tents and Rentals (has three used in good condition with a 30x60 tent available for \$1600); Dave's Tents (has a 30x45 for \$1400 and a 30x30 for the same price); Taylor Rental (also has a 30x45 for \$1400) and Special Events of N.E. (30x60 for \$3000). We wondered about insurance coverage on the tent and whether we should go to the Selectmen before we buy it or if the Town should buy it. Paul suggested that the Recreation Comm. Master Plan should be done by next year and if they have a Pavilion in there, we may not need a tent.

**Lee Fair:** The committee should be set up and meetings going forward very shortly.

**Town Center Committee:** Paul has been working with Mary Woodward, a Lee resident, towards planning some bike routes around town, in the area of Lee Hill. He has thoughts about 3 stop signs, possibly one at Recycling Road and Rte. 155, another at Weds. Hill Road and Rte. 155 and a third at George Bennett Road and Lee Hook Road, to make bicycling safer.

**Newsletter:** Since Laurel Cox has resigned her position with the Town OF Lee, it is not known whether she will be willing to do another newsletter. The Agricultural and Conservation newsletters are very popular. Arrangements would have to be made to pay for her time.

Chuck commented that the **Heritage Harvest Program** is on-going. On June 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a Farmacue and another one later on, reaching out to local farmers. Seacoast Local has dinners planned for the up coming season.

The next meeting, March 26, 2013, will be about a Plan of Work and the Budget.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund