

January 28, 2014

Lee Agricultural Commission

Present were Erick Sawtelle, Paul Gasowski, Dwight Barney, Chuch Cox, Donna-Lee Woods and Laura Gund.

Guests included Laurel Cox and Tina Sawtelle.

**Farmers' Market:** Tina came to our meeting to speak about the Lee Farmers' Market. She has been in touch with Dick Babcock, who is the Market Master, about several items. Last year UNH did a market survey and Tina has talked to Dick about doing a survey on Facebook. It would be just a basic survey, ongoing throughout the year. Also discussed a change of location, but Dick doesn't think that is advisable. Together they decided that our present location offers things that people are looking for such as convenience, shade on hot summer days, etc. The suggested new location would be in a high traffic area, which generally doesn't work out too well. Apparently folks who come to the market really do like the location. Our Lee market showed up on the UNH survey as having the best variety of meat. They talked about market hours and signs. Dick feels the signage is all right.

They discussed also the guidelines Dick uses for accepting vendors. He has been using the original guidelines – local farmers first, then bakers, value added products and finally, crafts. There are 13 vendors signed up for this year so far and there is room for 26. Talked about “tasteful” guest vendors, i.e. crafts. Jeff & Liz Conrad have a young couple working with them and they might come to the market.

More brochures are needed. Activities at market could include Julie McElhaney a nutritionist who might be available to answer nutrition questions; there could be cook-offs with various chefs; also 4-H kids doing gardening projects etc. Chuck wondered who made the decisions on programming, advertising, choosing vendors, etc. Donna-Lee wondered about the focus of a profile of the Lee market. In discussing finances, Erick explained that since this commission started the Lee Market, we have to approve expenditures due to the way the bookkeeping is set up. Paul feels the vendors should get together before and after the markets begin, feeling that this would be valuable to all of them.

**Brochure:** Discussed whether to reprint our present brochure or to redo the whole thing. Laura will contact Lyne at Wharf Industries and inquire as to the cost of each option. Possibly there would be grant money available to do the brochure.

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** Only five people showed up last night at the first session of this year's program. So we discussed how to get people out to these programs. WE will work on a single page flyer to go to every household in town. The Initiative committee met and agreed that it should be in the papers, copies should go to all presenters, there should be a sandwich board at the Grange, Town Hall and Safety Complex and Transfer Station.

**Sandwich Boards:** After some discussion it was agreed that sandwich boards for the farmers markets and other events would be useful.

Motion made by Laura Gund to *Purchase two or three sandwich boards, cost not to exceed \$500.* Seconded by Dwight and passed unanimously.

**Flyer:** The Backyard Farming flyer should include information on the Farmers' Markets, which will be starting the beginning of June, stressing the diversity of vendors, the Facebook page. It should also encourage townspeople to sign up for the e-crier. There was discussion on changing the name of this seasons' Backyard Farming Initiative series: "Exploring the beneficial relationship with microbes in our environment and food." It was agreed to reverse "environment and food", making it "food and environment."

Motion made by Dwight Barney to *allocate up to \$1000 for the printing and mailing to each Lee household the Backyard Farming Initiative and Lee Agricultural Commission update.* Seconded by Laura and passed unanimously.

**Kennard Property:** Laurel asked the Commission if they would give a vote of approval for the purchase of the Kennard property on Steppingstones Road at voting this year. We discussed the possible uses of the land if the town purchased it.

Motion: Chuck Cox made a motion *that the Lee Agricultural Commission supports the 2014 Warrant Article #7, to purchase the Kennard property as proposed in said article.* Paul seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** The Commission has \$6023 in its account and the Farmers' Market has \$1118.

Next meeting will be February 25, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund