

Lee Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2017

The regularly scheduled December 27th meeting was cancelled due to conflicts.

Present at the January 31st meeting were Erick Sawtelle, Amanda Gourgue, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Paul Gasowski, Jonathan Kohanski, Laura Gund. Cary Brown, Selectmen's representative, was also present. Guest: Tina Sawtelle, Farmers Market master.

Financial: No changes since November 2016.

M:inutes: In the Backyard Farming Initiative section, the April session was left out. With that change, Dwight moved to accept the minutes and Chuck seconded. Motion passed.

Lee Farmers Market: Tina Sawtelle, Market Master, reported on the farmers' market activities. This year will be the 10th anniversary of the market. There is enough of a core group to go forward this year, doing as much promotion as they can. They will send a post card to all Lee residents with the dates and describing any events, which will depend on who is available. Discussed the cost of sending a post card, possibly around \$700-\$800. The market will run from June 1st through September. Mostly they want to try to get folks to just stop by the market and see what's available each week. They would like a mix of food and crafts. Posters should be posted at the Lee Race Track.

Backyard Farming: There were 40 or so folks at the January 23rd event, "Looking Back: History of Land Use in Lee 1700-1850." Everyone felt it was a good program with Mark Fones, Executive Director of the NH Farm Museum, as well as Laura Gund. Next program will be "Changes in Land Use 1850-2000" with Randy Stevens, Phil Sanborn and Jere Beckman, speakers.

Planning 2016 - 2017: We discussed changes coming up in the warrant regarding zoning.

Pancake Breakfast: March 12th this year. At this time, the weather isn't looking too good for that date. Discussed a "snow date".

Newsletter: Once again we discussed getting a paper newsletter out to the town regularly and whether we need that. Should we talk to other commissions to see how they feel? Channel 13 doesn't work. After the deliberative session we should ask other groups, commissions and committees and we should do this before Farmers' Market starts. RSA 674-44-g, re: funds for advertising. Perhaps we can dovetail with Wendy Fogg at Misty Meadows who does an on-line community newsletter, and exchange information. What about advertising and town/business money? If we did this we could pay for the newsletter from ads. The fair program, for instance, has "sponsors."

Misc.: Bed and Breakfast facilities: there is one in town which is open now and another one in the works. Paul feels we should invite these folks in to talk with us and find out their plans and how we can help them moving forward. The agritourism definition includes overnight stays.

We also talked about getting together with other towns in the county to share information, how many have Ag. Commissions or committees or none, what issues do other towns have, how can we help each other in the future.

Next meeting February 28, 2017

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund