

Lee Agricultural Commission

July 24, 2017

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Paul Gasowski, Dwight Barney, Amanda Gourgue, Chuck Cox, Laura Gund and Cary Brown, Selectmen's representative. Kristen Cisneros attended the meeting as a guest. Also visiting was Ken Brisson of Honeyberry Farm, which is on Meadowbrook Drive (off Steppingstones Road West).

Mr. Brisson was here to talk about and ask what is happening with Agricultural Housing. He feels he is going to need help in the future with his maple syrup operation, and will need some kind of housing for farm workers. He is interested in being on the Agricultural Commission.

Minutes: Dwight motioned to approve the minutes of June 27th after the following changes have been made: "By consensus of the Commission, Paul will continue to research the availability of local chicken." All approved the change and the minutes.

Finances: No changes. The Agricultural Commission has \$4913.21 as of June 30th in their budget and the Farmers Market, as of May 14th, has \$1904.16.

Lee Fair: Kristen talked about the Best of Harvest contest. The categories will be simplified to make it easier on contestants. The "Wild Card" is good. There were 32 entries last year. There will be a "Best of Harvest" category and an Honorable Mention. She is sending a letter to Market Basket, requesting a donation. Kirsten made several Best of Harvest posters for distribution. Horseshoes: Paul Tuck will be supervising the horseshoe contest this year. (Erick has the rules from last year and will pass those on to Paul. Farm Games: Chuck and Paul haven't had a chance to meet as yet. We discussed prizes for the Games winners and we will give a barbecue dinner to the winner of the Games. Tickets: We will have one ticket with a choice of pork or chicken. Amanda will do the tickets. Discussed whether we should have different color tickets for each choice and will try to have two people in the ticket area to check the choice and direct the diner to the correct line. Chicken and vegetables: Paul did extensive research on local chicken, including with Tendercrop. Due to the difficulty in getting serving-size local chicken, Paul feels it would be best if we didn't plan on this for this year. Paul will hunt up local vegetables. Preparations: Kitchen prep will be on Thursday, September 9th, at the Grange. John & Laura will cook 75# of red potatoes on Weds. so the potatoes will be ready for Thursday's salad preparations. Survey: We thought it might be of interest to conduct a survey to see how folks feel about having more local products at our supper, and possibly paying more for a ticket. Kristen will work on a survey which can be done at the fair.

Report to the Selectmen: The Board of Selectmen have requested, from each Commission and Committee, a report detailing what the commission has been doing in recent months. Such as Backyard Farming Initiative, Farmers Market celebrating its 10th year this year, preparing for the fair, Annual Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with Strafford County Farm Bureau, continuing discussion of local food, trying to initiate recognition of the communication problem in town, Ag. Brochure, planning and zoning as it pertains to agriculture. Erick will make a presentation to the board.

Farm worker housing: This is to be re-addressed, trying to answer the questions of who needs it in town, and what are other towns doing. Identify the need first and go from there.

At the end of the meeting, Dwight stated that Rochester Fair will not be opening this year for financial reasons and Stratham Fair may not open next year, due to lack of volunteers.

Next meeting: August 29, 2017

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund