

March 24, 2014

Lee Agricultural Commission

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Paul Gasowski, Donna-Lee Woods, Laura Gund.

Carole Dennis, Selectmen's representative.

Guest, Brian Malnati. Brian is monitoring the meeting for a writing class at UNH.

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 25, 2014 were approved as read. Dwight made a motion to accept.

**Finances:** \$4780.70 in the Commission fund and \$1118.10 in the Farmers' Market account. A-frames and extra letters were purchased.

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** There were 64 people attending the meeting last night about beer and wine. It was felt that the program could not have been improved and the information given was amazing. Presenters reacted well to the program. Donna-Lee would like more interaction during the program. There should be a copy of the Backyard Farming Initiative brochure in our file. Laura will tend to this. We discussed chicken plucking and processing as a future program. Donna-Lee will bring new ideas.

**Lee Fair:** Carole will check with the Board of Selectmen about the Fair Committee. Has one been established?

**Farmers Breakfast:** The breakfast was a great success with 390 people attending. After the breakfast it was determined that the grille needs to be repaired with new valves. Each valve in approximately \$150 and we need two. There was some discussion about who actually owns the grille. We should find that out before we repair it and also determine how much it will cost to repair and who will pay for it.

**Brochures:** We discussed the number of ads in the brochure and determined that the maximum number would be 30. There is not enough space for more than that. We discussed costs: possibly \$25 per business card ad/ \$10 for a line with farm name, and \$50 each for four back panels. There followed a general discussion of costs; is this a service or a money maker?, who should be on the back panels?.

*Dwight made a motion to keep the \$25/business card and \$10/for a line and add \$50/back page panel. Motion passed.*

**Commission members:** Chuck Cox and Dave Miner, both regular members, have expiring terms. Jere Beckman, who is currently an alternate, could move up to full time and then we could find alternate members. Steve Haendler was one possibility.

Paul moves we approve Chuck's nomination on the Agricultural Commission. Motion approved.

**Cooking for Groups seminar:** This seminar, sponsored by Cooperative Extension, will be held April 12, 2014 in Boscawen. It will discuss food safety, etc.

**Work Plan:** There is no plan in place for working on the Master Plan. We will wait to hear from the Planning Board.

**Community Garden:** Paul met a lady who has been asked to be in charge of a Community Garden. Betsy Beecher is interested, though she has no experience. The owner of the land wants community gardens, but doesn't have a plan and needs someone to organize it.

**Videos:** Dorn Cox took a video of the stump grinder at the Recycling Center when that was in operation. They are trying to get the video on the town web site. Paul also took some video at the Farmers Breakfast and that could go up on the site.

**Selectmen's Rep:** Carole is willing to be our representative from the Board of Selectmen.

**Volunteer dinner:** There is a sign at the Recycling Center thanking volunteers and announcing a dinner on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for volunteers.

Next meeting will be April 29, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund