

Lee Agricultural Commission

March 27, 2018

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Ken Brisson, Donna-Lee Woods, Amanda Gourgue, Laura Gund.

Guest: Michael Zahorik. He is attending COLSA.

Jonathan Kohanski has resigned from the Commission.

Minutes: Dwight made a motion to accept the minutes of February 27, 2018 as read, with one change in the financial section. Ken seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted, with changes.

Financial: There are \$6424.82 in the Commission account and \$1725.17 in the Farmers Market.

Backyard Farming Initiative: There was a meeting last night entitled “Where to Put Your Garden” with Paul and Annie Gasowski presenting. About 32 folks attended. Next month the topic will be “How to Care for your Garden,” with Dick Wolmar speaking. May 21st will be the final session for this year. The committee has had a meeting to talk about next year. Some possible topics include Don Quigley speaking about Backyard Forestry. Possibly a talk about Animals, wild and domestic; Deer (and other animal) problems; Problems for the Large Farmer; and Weeds and Soil Fertility.

Pancake Breakfast: The count for this breakfast was 305 people. The Income was \$2871.00 with \$964.28 expenses, leaving \$1906.92 net. Included in that amount was \$130 in donations. There were 28 volunteers who put in 325 manhours. Members of the Woolmark 4-H Sheep Club were our servers. This Club is raising money to take a trip to the All American Sheep Show later this year and they requested a donation to help defray their expenses. This will be brought up at the next Strafford County Farm Bureau meeting.

Erick was able to buy 10 chafing dishes for \$150, plus 10 sternos at \$1 each. Laura made a motion and Dwight 2nd that we reimburse Erick for this purchase. Motion passed.

Brochure: Lengthy discussion about the brochure. We picked maroon as the outside color and inside with gray print and squares. (Various other suggestions were Orange for lettering inside, light grey background with maroon writing, Red border around map. Orange with a brown tint for letter boxes - with black letters. Have fields and pastures under map.) Should we include Where to get produce? We can put the Farmers Market business card on the map (in place of the 250th logo) with a list of products that may be available. We also discussed various photos. Amanda and Laura will work on photos.

Bedrock Gardens: This is not moving forward. (They have been planning to expand their business substantially and this process is on-going.) They have been to the Planning Board and discussed their project.

Lee Fair: It was agreed that this Commission will once again do the Pig Roast/Chicken Barbecue, Farm Games and the Best of Harvest. The first fair meeting is coming up shortly.

Thompson School of Applied Science: We discussed the changes going on at Thompson School. Several programs are being cut with a few remaining.

AITC (Agriculture in the Classroom): Dwight suggested we wait and see what our upcoming expenses may be before donating to AITC. This was turned into a motion which Ken seconded. Motion passed.

Historical Society: Laura announced a program the Lee Historical Society is putting on at their annual meeting on April 20th. Joel Sherburne of Barrington and Rebecca Rule, author of “yankee” books, have written a book together, “Sixty Years of Cuttin’ the Cheese”, and they will talk about their book.

Next Meeting will be April 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund