

## Lee Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2017

**Present:** Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Paul Gasowski, Donna-Lee Wood, Jonathan Kohanski and Laura Gund.

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Chuck Cox to accept the minutes of March 2, 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dwight Barney. Motion passed.

**Finances:** Same as last month.

**March Breakfast:** The breakfast brought in \$2700 in income, with expenses of approximately \$1000. Three hundred people attended the breakfast and consumed, among other things, 65 pounds of bacon and 100 pounds of potatoes. The raffle did not work out this year, and Scott Bugbee has offered to run a raffle next year at the breakfast.

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** Donna-Lee made a motion to donate \$500 to the Grange, Dwight 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion is approved. There was a program last night (Present Use, Local Farms, 2000-2017), and Chuck thought it was a good meeting with 30 or so people and an excellent response from those attending. Thanks to Ruth, from the library, who does the refreshments and makes various cakes and breads which we all enjoy. We will reimburse her at the end of the seasons' programs. The videographers haven't sent a bill as yet. The final program will be a "round table" discussion and we talked about setting that up. The chairs will all be in a circle and Don Quigley will again be the moderator. And there will be a flip chart. Cooking classes may be a possibility for the programs next year.

**Printed newsletter:** Erick sent out a letter of information, requesting a response, to all the commissions and committees in town. Those who responded were interested in seeing this idea move forward. The Sustainability group was interested in it. They would write an article each month – as long as someone else puts it together. All groups will contribute. Discussed the next move and when to meet as a group. Paul is on the Sustainability Committee and they have talked about what to put in a newsletter. One of their members suggested talking about tipping fees at the Recycling Center, something about compost, etc.

**Farmers Market:** The market vendors are sending a post card to every house in town. There will be few market changes this year. They will have a focal point as a "greeting" spot and a table with a variety of items for sale. They are going for an "upbeat" look this year.

**Barns:** Laura discussed her upcoming book about the history of agriculture in Lee. She and Randy Stevens, who is working on the book with her, plan to devote a section to barns. We discussed various barns in town, as well as folks who should be interviewed by the Heritage Commission.

**Dover Farmers Market:** Paul was curious about Food Stamps at Farmers Markets and SNAP, a program where people buy coupons and bring them to the vendor who is then reimbursed.

**Seacoast Eat Local:** Shelly Smith of the Seacoast Eat Local, will be joining us for our April meeting.

**Food Processor:** A food processor was donated by Suzanne Hebert and Ricky Stevens. It had belonged to Susie Sanborn Wurtzer and was given to Suzanne and Ricky, who in turn donated it to the Ag. Comm.

**AED Unit for the Grange:** Jimmy Brady thinks this is a good idea. He has spoken to the local Beekeepers, who meet regularly at the Grange Hall, asking them to share in the cost of an AED. It will be around \$100 for batteries and pads. This is still a work in progress.

Next meeting will be April 25, 2017

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund