

Lee Agricultural Commission

March 29, 2016

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

At Town Meeting Cary Brown was elected Selectmen and tonight he introduced himself as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Agricultural Commission.

February Minutes: Some names of attendees were omitted and Dwight moved to accept the minutes after adding the missing names.

Finances: The Ag. Commission has \$7215.49 in the bank account, while the Farmers Market has \$1604.10. Vendors for the Markets have started sending in applications.

Brochures: This is coming along, just a couple of more contacts and it will soon be ready for the printers. Paul has contacted the fellow who is operating Dog Rose Farm at the Barth Farm.

Backyard Farming Initiative: This program was last night with 31 people in attendance. They had "sandy cheesecake" for dessert, in keeping with the focus on soils. The next program will be the final one of this series and is entitled "Healthy Soil, Healthy Lee" and presented by Steve Haendler and John Hutton. It will be advertised in the Market Bulletin and will be MC'd by Chuck.

Pancake Breakfast: The total fed was 350 hungry folks. \$3959.10 was raised, with \$1110 in expenses, leaving \$2400 to go into the Youth in Agriculture account of Strafford County Farm Bureau. It was a great success – everyone loved the bacon!

250th Celebration: Cary spoke about the time capsule and possible items to be put into it. We talked about the parade and other events.

Master Plan: Quite a bit of time was spent discussing the Master Plan and shuffling all the M.P. papers with goals, action items and visions. We gave Cary a short history of the Ag. Commission. One goal discussed was Goal #2: Educate about the effects to agriculture, etc. of climate change and promote management practices that mitigate and adapt to climate changes and assure agricultural diversity and resilience of our soils to be productive. We discussed general actions, etc. "Vision" could be an internal document. We went through all the items listed on the vision. The MP committee will receive from us the Goals and Action Items, the Vision and Paul's history, as well as another short history of the commission.

Next meeting will be April 26, 2016.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund.