

LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

May 26, 2015

Present: Steve Haendler, Chuck Cox, Donna Lee Wood, Paul Gasowski, Laura Gund

Alternate Member: Amanda Gourgue

Guest: Jonathan Kohanski

Minutes: The April 28th meeting minutes were approved as read.

Finances: There has been no change in the financial report. In April there was \$7268.93 in the Commission fund and \$1318.00 in the Farmers Market fund.

Farmers Markets will be starting this week. *Steve made a motion to reimburse Erick \$89 for the purchase of a tent for the market. Approved.*

Gift Baskets: *Chuck made a motion, seconded by Steve Haendler, to reimburse Tina Sawtelle for gift baskets. Approved.*

Backyard Farming Initiative: At the last, and final, program there were 26 attendees. Questionnaires have been sent out; trying to find out what people would like to see at these programs. "Soils" will be the topic next year. Becky Sideman from Strafford could speak to this, also Dorn Cox, as well as someone from USDA, and UNH. The first session will be "What is Soil?"

Master Plan: We should read Durham's agricultural section in their Master Plan. Is there a time line for ours?

Newsletter: Talked once again about the benefits of having a printed newsletter mailed to families in town. There are many topics that could be covered: Lee Fair, Farmers Market (who will be there, what will be available, who is playing music, etc), The Backyard Farming Initiative, etc. Amanda is willing to put a newsletter together, but she has to have newsletter material. We talked about doing interviews with people in town, which could also be included in the newsletters.

Winter Farmers Market: There is some talk about having a winter farmers market at the Oyster River Middle School. We didn't have much information on this.

Farm Summit: Paul suggested having a Farm Summit, which would be a way to assess area farmers' needs in regards to markets, how we can help, etc.

Farm-a-cue: On Sunday, June 28th, there will be a Farm-a-cue with a group of chefs cooking local foods.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund