

# Lee Agricultural Commission

May 30, 2017

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

**Minutes:** Paul made a motion to accept the minutes of April 24, 2017; Donna-Lee seconded the motion. It was approved.

**Finances:** The Ag. Commission has \$4850.17 in its account now (\$57.90 for flowers has not been paid yet). The Farmers Market has \$1386.17 (\$20 to be removed for advertising, as well as \$300 for postage for the Farmers Market postcard that went to all Lee households.)

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** The final program was held recently when ideas for future meetings were discussed. "How can we help them with their farming" was one idea. A questionnaire about future programs was available as a hand-out. It was felt that people would like information about gardening and preserving. Wendy Booth, a local beekeeper, was suggested as a speaker. Amanda says that Extension personnel would participate in some of our programs. Other ideas: growing kiwi fruit locally, Brent Loy from the Ag. Experiment Station in Durham, Bluebell Greenhouses, CSAs, etc.

**Lee Fair:** The first meeting for this year is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Chuck and Paul are willing to do the Farm Games again. How about prizes? Kristin Cisneros will do the Best of Harvest contest again. Paul will obtain the vegetables for the Harvest Supper, as well as look into the price and availability of local poultry. We will have horseshoes available again this year. It does need to move to a more out-of-the-way spot this year.

**Newsletter:** There will be another meeting coming up. We discussed small changes to the e-crier at our last meeting. Dean Rubin and Amanda will develop a calendar of local events for inclusion in the e-crier. 700 people have signed up to receive the weekly e-crier. We discussed again a printed newsletter – the problem being that there is no one to gather news articles and put it together. And who would pay for it?

**Bedrock Gardens:** Discussed the issue of parking at the events held at Bedrock Gardens on High Road. They have a new director of events, John Forte, formerly at Strawberry Bank, and he has increased the number of programs. Parking is difficult – there is no on-street parking.

*Motion: Paul moved that the Lee Agricultural Commission recognizes that Bedrock Garden is a cultural asset to the town. Donna-Lee seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.*

Next meeting will be June 27, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund.