

Lee Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2017

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Amanda Gourgue, Paul Gasowski, Laura Gund and Selectman Brown

Guests: Ken Brisson, Kristin Cisneros and Tina Sawtelle.

Minutes of October 31, 2017 were approved as read.

Finances: no changes.

Farmers Markets: Tina met with us to update us on the markets. Postcards will be sent with market information again this coming year, to each household in Lee. They felt these were effective. That is an \$800 expense. At the end-of-year vendors meeting, they all agreed that they would like the Lee Farmers market to continue in 2018. For the most part the 2017 markets went well, though it is sometimes difficult to get vendors to commit, and the vendors do change from year to year. Marketing is important. Some items from farms other than vendors were sold this year, such as blueberries, corn, apples and raspberries, and that worked well. Amanda will look into Master Gardeners doing canning demonstrations, and possibly other demos.

Brochures: Discussed the farm brochure again. If we are going to do a new one it would be a good idea to have it ready for the start of farmers markets and make a “market splash”. We talked about possibly having more ads. Laura will contact Wharf Industries to see if it is possible to make the brochure larger – either horizontally or vertically, and, if possible, by how much could it be expanded and what would be the cost. Paul suggests changing color schemes, fonts, lay out, etc.

AED: No answers as yet from the Grange or the Beekeepers as to whether they want to donate to an AED (automated external defibrillator) for the Grange Hall. Fire Chief Scott Nemet recommends one that hangs on a wall. It will be \$635 for a portable and \$760 for it boxed, plus shipping. Strafford County Farm Bureau will donate up to \$250 for this AED. We are looking for a commitment from the beekeepers before we vote on it.

Volunteer Supper: There will be a Volunteers Supper at the Grange on December 6th. We have an opportunity to buy some new chafing dishes for \$25 each. These can be used at events such as the Volunteers Supper, but also at the annual Pancake Breakfast which we co-sponsor. Dwight made the motion that we spend \$25 each for chafing dishes. Ken seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Communications sub-group: There were copies of the Nottingham Community Newsletter that we passed around. However, Amanda told us that no one is interested in being on the communications committee. So there was no further discussion.

Agritourism: The meeting of Bedrock Gardens at the Planning Board was postponed to December 8th. We discussed the Bedrock Gardens situation. There is a bill in Concord to change the definition of agritourism.

Next meeting will be December 26, 2017. Minutes submitted by Laura Gund