

October 2, 2012

Agricultural Commission

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Carole Dennis, Paul Gasowski, Laura Gund

Minutes: Dwight moved to accept the minutes of the August 28th meeting as read. Paul seconded. Minutes accepted.

Financial Report: Donna Lee, our treasurer, was not present tonight. Unofficial fair expenses and receipts: \$1500 was deposited in the fair account, received \$2460 for tickets plus a \$20 donation. Expenses so far are \$938, plus another \$258, and \$70 for the hand-washing station. The Dennis's have kindly offered to donate \$35 towards the hand-washing station. (Thank you!) We made roughly \$900 - \$1000.

Fair: The church booth didn't do very well. At this point, we seem to be at about \$1000 profit for the pig roast. Paul made a motion: *Move to donate \$100 to the Grange for the use of their building during preparations for the pig roast.* Motion passed. We also made a motion to donate something to Dave Miner for the use of his tent the past two years. Paul made the motion, Laura seconded: *Move to donate \$200 to Dave Miner for the use of his tent, \$100 for this year and \$100 for last year.* Motion passed.

The Fair Committee would like to change the parking in the park, to make spaces available at the opposite end of the park. Then the tent could be moved and the set up generally rearranged. The Fair ended up in the black and this money will remain in the bank for next year. Vendor location was a problem that will need to be addressed. There may have been 1500 people at the fair. Total income was around \$5400; after expenses, around a \$12-1500 profit. Carole feels we have to do more marketing – putting more ads and posters around, including places such as daycares.

Pig Roast: Pig roast was another success. Erick is in the process of making a new pan, as the other one will need to be replaced. Paul suggests co-sponsoring the pig roast because of the amount of work involved. Several members of the Firemen's Association helped with the roast and others helped with setting up tables, serving, etc. There followed a general discussion of the merits of co-sponsoring the roast. Other groups suggested were non-profits, i.e. a day care; the church who might benefit financially also. Also suggested was the Grange and this might be a "neighborly" thing to do for the Grange, as well as a financial assist. Then we discussed local food. Paul was able to procure local vegetables for the salads, plus corn on the cob. Talked about getting a local pig next year. Dwight suggested contacting the State Pork Producers for possible sources. Erick commented that we paid \$1.35/lb this year and local pork would be more expensive. Paul feels expense is not the issue – buying locally is more important. It was agreed to investigate buying locally and Pork Producers would be a place to start. Discussed the price of grain increasing and various options for pig purchases. Plans will have to be made several months in advance to give the grower time to plan on a pig for us. Carole mentioned that she knows someone who raises pigs and she will contact them. Carole feels ticket sales should be handled differently.

Brochure: Laura will call Lynne at the printers to find out how we should do our lay out and how it should be delivered to her.

Town Center Committee: Paul asked to be the Agricultural Commission representative on the Town Center Committee which is being re-activated. Paul has been active on the previous Town Center Comm. as well as the Charette and the “listening sessions” for the new Committee. He would represent Ag. Comm’s interests by stressing marketing of local products , protecting our agricultural land and honoring our vision. Little River Park property could be more viable. Erick suggested he look at the Master Plan where there is a good overall statement. The Town Center committee should look at the Master Plan. Laura made a motion: *Move to appoint Paul Gasowski as our representative to the Town Center Committee.* Dwight seconded. Motion approved.

Next meeting: October 30, 2012

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund