

LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 27, 2015

Present: Paul Gasowski, Erick Sawtelle, Donna Lee Woods, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Amanda Gourgue, Steve Haendler, Jonathan Kohanski and Laura Gund

Minutes: The minutes of September 29, 2015 were accepted as written. The minutes of August 25, 2015 were accepted with the following changes: Steve Haendler retracted his motion; Dwight Barney retracted his second regarding the compost shed on the Randall Farm.

Finances: There was no budget or financial report available. Current balance is \$8066.76.

Budget: The Budget Committee seems pleased with our activities, and accepted our budget request for \$1000.

Newsletter: The budget committee agreed that a newsletter was a good idea. That will continue to be a work in progress.

Lee Fair: Expenses for the Lee Fair Pig Roast and Chicken Barbecue were \$1067.

Farmers Market: Unfortunately the next to the last Market was cancelled because of a forecast of heavy rain and then there was no rain. Discussed ways of handling this situation next year. It was suggested that vendors meet with the Market Master and made the decision together, prior to the market. Chuck would like to see the market go until the end of September. It was also suggested that the vendors meet with the Market Master before markets, every week. Discussed Market Insurance. The Board of Selectmen waived the requirement for small vendors to be required to have insurance – other than product liability coverage.

Backyard Farming Initiative: The schedule and speakers for the upcoming series has been confirmed, “Healthy Soil, Healthy Lee: Building Soil Health.” The first program will be January 25th, “In the beginning: the genesis of soils” with Chuck Cox and Steve Jones. There are flyers at the library and it will be announced in the Weekly Market Bulletin and Lee’s E-Crier. Durham Agricultural Commission has been notified, as well as Nada Haddad, John Porter, NHFB computer schedule, Durham Friday Up-dates, Seacoast Eat Local.

250th Farm to Table Celebration: The committee reported that a cover letter has been drafted, a check list included, and they can go out tomorrow in the Commission approves. The criteria for a yea or nay vote would be if we feel there is enough food available. It is felt that protein is the first priority and the growers will have to be asked how much they can provide, if they agree to do this.

Lee Farm Brochure: We discussed the possibility of a new brochure for 2016, including adding the 250th logo to the brochure. Paul suggested using old farm photos this time. We’ll have the list of farms we wish to approach for advertising at our next meeting.

Master Plan: The results of the survey are out, but there is nothing new at this time. Chuck stated that the survey showed support for land and rural character. The Master Plan committee will be going before the selectmen on November 9th.

Solar Array: Paul stated that he has been following the discussion about Durham's solar array in Lee. Then we discussed taxation of solar arrays, as well as solar in general.

Powder Major Farm: Chuck reported that there will be an information session with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests regarding the protection of the Powder Major Farm, which includes some land in Lee.

The next meeting will be November 24, 2015.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund