

## LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

October 28, 2014

**Present:** Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Donna Lee Woods, Laura Gund, Paul Gasowski, Chuck Cox

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 30, 2014 meeting were approved as read.

**Finances:** At this time there is \$7266.48 in the account which includes the Farmers' Market account.

**Pig Roast, Lee Fair:** the final count is about 265 people fed, with 255 Tickets accepted in the line.

**Backyard Farming Initiative:** Some of the farms that will be represented in this year's presentations are Coppal House, Velvet Pastures, Woolmark Farm, Boulder Brook Farm, Tuckaway Farm Pinewoods Yankee Farm, Bluebell Greenhouse, Mildred's Drumlin Farm, Hickory Nut Farm and we are waiting on Misty Meadows. Publicity will go out shortly.

Paul Gasowski graciously consented to be the Master of Ceremonies at the programs. The library will handle the refreshments. Annie Gasowski will do a flyer. Erick will make a list of all State RSA's pertaining to agriculture.

*Payment to the Grange for the Backyard Farming Initiative has been \$75 in the past. Dwight moved that we start donating \$100 rather than \$75 to the Grange. Motion passed.*

How to advertise? Some discussion about the numbers of people (i.e. cars) and where to park in the winter. We might ask to use Ed. Banister's field going to and from the Town Hall and park there. Erick will ask Mr. Banister about the use of his field on January 26, February 23 and March 23.

**Pancake breakfast:** Discussion as to whether to join in with Strafford County Farm Bureau in putting on the breakfast. There is some question as to whether the Farm Bureau wants to do it alone. If we do it separately – when? Insurance is an issue with the Grange – there is no fire insurance on the building. They need a fund to change the wiring. It was decided for Laura to check with Bruce Cilley, President of SCFB, as to whether he wanted to join with us in the breakfast. We would want to make a donation to the Grange.

**Town doing a needs assessment:** Paul mentioned this as an opportunity for the Agricultural Commission to work on something such as Keene's Hannah Grimes. The Bricker Property for artisans, etc with leased space. Discussion as to just how to do this. Would there be a traffic problem at the triangle? Do we know whether anyone is interested in this sort of plan?

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Chuck talked about possible activities during the celebration in 2016 – such as open barns and open houses.

**Newsletter:** Once again we discussed the possibility of sharing a newsletter with other commissions and who would do it.

Next meeting will be November 25, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund