

LEE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

September 29, 2015

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Paul Gasowski, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Amanda Gourgue and Laura Gund

Guests: Jonathan Kohanski, Frank Reinhold and Brian Ferguson.

250th Farm to Table Dinner at Flag Hill: Frank and Brian discussed the possibility of a dinner at Flag Hill as part of the 250th celebration next year. Various menu options were discussed. They would modify the menu to accommodate local foods. It could be a buffet and then whatever was available could be on the table. Frank discussed how to sell it and promote it. August 25, 2016 is a possible date (it's important to get the date onto the Flag Hill calendar now). The Agricultural Commissions' role in this would be to locate local food suppliers and what is/will be available. There would need to be an advertising budget. Erick asked who would be interesting in heading up a committee. Paul, Chuck and Amanda offered to be a committee of three. Frank would like to know our decision by next month so they can proceed with their part of the arrangement. First of all, farmers need to be asked if they can produce for this event. Frank would like this information by November 10th (next meeting of the 250th committee).

250th Parade: The 250th committee is looking for people, organizations and commissions who would like to have a float in the parade. We discussed that possibility briefly.

Breakfast in the Park: There may be a possibility of having a breakfast in the park on July 17, next year, the day following the parade, continuing activities of that week-end. We felt that we would have quite a bit to do around that time, so perhaps the breakfast could be catered. (Check with Gina Kemp at UNH catering).

Minutes: *A motion was made to table the August minutes until the September meeting to further discuss the Randall Compost Shed. Motion approved.*

Finances/ Lee Fair: Tentatively, when all bills are paid, supper tickets sold will amount to \$2082. Expenses come to \$960 (plus \$1100). 234 tickets were sold: 203 adults and 21 kids. (There was a lot of chicken left over this year.)

Lee Fair: Everyone felt that a good time was had by all. Chuck felt the Farm Games went well. There were youngsters who played and had fun. The supper was a success. At the Fair Committee meeting following the fair we discussed putting the Tractor Pull and the Kid's Games closer together.

Motion was made to pay all outstanding bills. Seconded and approved.

Backyard Farming: The first of this series will be in January, entitled "Genesis of Soils" and presented by Steve Jones, Soil Scientist at Jackson's Lab. Another program will be "Soil Fertility"

with Eric and Becky Sideman, Coop. Extension. Paul has agreed to be the MC at these programs. All speakers are lined up and the Grange will be available. 2016 is the International year of Soils and we will be focusing on soils in Lee.

Commission Members: Jonathan Kohanski has agreed to become an alternate member of the Ag. Commission. Dwight made a *motion to accept Jonathan as an alternate and we all readily agreed.* Welcome, Jonathan!

Budget: It is coming time for the annual budget hearings, so we discussed finances in the next fiscal year.

Possible float in the 2016 parade - \$1000

Newsletter (another possible) - \$3000

Refrigeration Truck?

We decided to ask for \$1000 at the budget hearing. *Paul made a motion to submit a budget of \$1000 to go towards the above 3 projects, plus a: farmer's summit".* This motion passed.

Master Plan: Paul recently went to a meeting of the Master Plan committee. We discussed this and wonder where we (the Agricultural Commission) are on the schedule as we would like to start the process. There is some concern about the Master Plan being completed in a timely fashion (2016). We would like to be involved in the process.

Next meeting will be October 27, 2015.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund