

Draft Minutes Agriculture Commission Meeting November 16, 2015

Attending: Dieter Ebert, Walter Nordstrom, Cindy Jenkins, Lisa Cote
Visitor: Bobbi Burns

Meeting called to order: 7:05

Minutes: Minutes from 9-28-15 were read and accepted.

Garden: The spigots were turned off by Aquarian in late October. There are still hoses on the ground that need to be drained, coiled and stored. Lisa will seek a list of active gardeners (probably only 5 or 6) from Bob Copp and they will be asked to come help clean up the gardens. The entire garden layout needs to be reconsidered since mowing has become too difficult. There is a roto-tiller on site which needs proper storage. Abandoned gardens need fence removal and clean up, hoop house cover needs to be trashed and new one procured.

The ag comm will improve the garden layout and seek interested gardeners for next season with the intention that our fees will cover expenses. If the area can be cleaned up and maintained in a better fashion, more people may be interested. Hampton Community Garden may have a waiting list. The Master Gardener Association is highly interested in maintaining a garden and providing on going involvement. Six to ten gardeners will be involved with their showcase garden in the next season. It will be an opportunity for newer gardeners to create their gardens in conjunction with the master gardeners. Ag Comm will work to better promote the gardens and see if there is an opportunity to pair with Fuller Gardens. Walter will follow up on that.

Finances: The current balance is \$1702.91 and Aquarian will be sending a bill. Other typical expenses include mowing, roto-tilling, water, hoses, soil tests, and this year a new hoop house cover.

Zoning: Members will attend the Planning Board Work Session 11-17-15 to offer input on the accessory structure ordinance to prevent impact on agriculture in unintended ways.

We are continuing to search for a lead person to keep things more organized at the community garden and two more members on the commission.

Meeting adjourned: Walter made a motion to adjourn, 8:48 pm. Second by Lisa