

WOLFEBORO AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
4-7-16

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Horsken, Chair; Lawreen Strauch, Vice-Chair; David Strauch, Sarah Silk, Marge Strunk, Dennis Devylder, Wendy Rodgers, alternates Alan Fredrickson, Mark Lush,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carolyn Fredrickson, member; Gail Antonucci alt, Karen Devylder alt, David Senecal, BOS liaison

I. Call to Order:

Charlie Horsken, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He introduced Blair Moody, former member & Vice-Chair, who was a guest. He has applied again this year for reappointment to the Ag Comm.

II. Public Input:

There was no public input. Dennis noted Karen had a commitment at school tonight and Alan noted Carolyn was unable to attend.

With a motion from Dave Strauch and a second from Dennis Devylder, it was voted to bring the alternates to the table.

III. Approve Minutes of 1-7-16

Charlie noted a typo on pg 1 under Rules of Procedure: 2nd line, “voted” should be “vote”: pg 2 under Annual Report: 2nd line, “not” should be “no”.

Sarah noted that the Minutes of 6-4-16 pg 2 indicate that Lawreen Strauch was voted in as Vice-Chair change at top of page. Also under Consideration of Minutes, the word “miss-information” should be “misinformation”.

With a motion from Dennis Devylder and a second from Mark Lush, the Minutes of 1-7-16 were accepted as amended.

IV. New Business:

There was a request to discuss the local co-op and businesses selling food they label as “organic”.

Alan Fredrickson explained there is a new local food coop on Bay Street (old electronics building, now owned by Donnie Shure). For example, the vendor purchasing policy speaks of USDA chicken. As there is no USDA plant nearby, it would not be local. Organic, sustainable, humane treatment of animals, avoiding chemical fertilizer, pesticides, and fungicides are all laudable, but often these terms are used for marketing by those with no connections to agriculture that do not realize that some terms have definitions in law. “Organic” foods must come from certified organic farms. A farm might be certified organic for vegetables, but not for meat as an example.

“Local” for the State of NH means the product was grown within the boundaries of the State of NH. “Local” for the Wolfeboro Area Farmers Market means the farm is within 50 miles of Wolfeboro, which includes farms over the border into Maine. The farms may sell products purchased from another farm within the State.

Charlie noted NH RSA 426-5 which led a brief discussion of the ability to sell NH products within Maine.

Ohm Health Spa is selling farm shares and meat from their location (old Moody’s sewing building on 109A) indicating that items are from “4 or 5 local farms”, however, when asked, the employees can not or are unwilling to verify the origins of the products. They also are using the term “organic” inappropriately as reported by a vendor and claim to be only a warehouse for CSA deliveries 4x/mo, yet had meat in stock.

Alan checked with the Windham butcher shop for the frequency of slaughtered “organic” meat and was told they deal with almost none. There was a discussion about the confusion outside of agricultural circles regarding the term “grass fed” and “organic”. Alan questioned the Ohm menu item of organic raw peanuts from NH. Brookford in Canterbury is organic, Brookdale in Hollis is not. Charlie knew of 3 organic farms in NH: Goffstown, Chester, and Haverhill.

Dennis noted he had seen organic chicken in Concord for sale at \$12.95/LB.

Wendy Rodgers suggested a class, or educational night, perhaps with adult ed at the high school.

Sarah Silk suggested joining with GALA for education as they have a large network for advertising to the public, it’s a topic they embrace, and as a Town Commission, Ag Comm could probably be held in the Great Hall at no charge.

Alan noted that April 16th the Slow Food Southern Carroll County group at Ossipee Town Hall has invited farmers for an Ossipee Business fair 10 AM -2 PM. He and Charlie will be there.

V. Next meeting date:

The next meeting will be **Thursday, May 5th, 7 PM, @ the Community Center.**

Charlie will attempt to get the Agenda out earlier.

Sarah noted there would be election of officers as new members should be appointed by the BOS by then. (Marge Strunk, Charlie and Blair have sent in letters.) Wendy noted 581-8811 as her new number.

VI. Adjourn:

With a motion from Marge and a second from Dave Strauch the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M Silk, (acting secretary)

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