



Town of Candia
Agricultural Commission
74 High Street
Candia, New Hampshire 03034

FINAL MINUTES

September 7, 2023

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matt Cobb, Robin Vergato, Tom DiMaggio, Joe Lamarche (arrived at 7:10PM), Melissa Madden, Darrel Nafranowicz, Ron Howe.

Commission Alternates present: Pattie Davis (arrived at 7:07PM), Debra Cobb. Excused: Ken Madden

Call to Order

*Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Commission Members and Alternates.

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on August 3, 2023.**

-Moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-The account increased by \$90.98, and the balance is \$5,416.82. Donations for some of the lecture series over the last year were discussed. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Darrel Nafranowicz and seconded by Ron Howe, passed unanimously.

Public in Attendance

- Alex Cambell and Richard Ascolillo were in attendance.

Old Business

***Update on New Alternates**

-The Board of Selectman will be reviewing letters of interest submitted by Alex Cambell and Richard Ascolillo.

***Farmer's Market**

- The August Farmer's Market was successful. Attendance was down a little. Fresh corn was available and will be available at the next Farmer's Market. One vendor is not coming in September due to not selling enough.
- The Farmer's Market represented at Old Home Day was not as successful-there were not a lot of vendors.
- There is a new vendor who wants to attend and there will be a spot check of the farm to confirm what they will bring.
- The September Farmer's Market will have apples available and some will be offered free initially.
- Reach the Beach will be the weekend of the September Farmer's Market which could increase traffic.
- Volunteers are needed, especially for the October Farmer's Market i.e., to assist with tables and tents. Coffee will be available starting next month.
- There was a discussion around setup tasks and parking.
- There will be 55 vendors in October. There will likely be some setup needed the night before.
- The bathroom at the library is available for use during the Farmer's Markets.

***Lecture Series**

- The second Tuesday in February would be a good date for the moose lecture.
- The canning lecture could be scheduled for November.
- There has been a suggestion for movie night to show "Underdog" that focuses on the life of a Vermont dairy farmer. The movie will be reviewed first.
- Rodent control could be a topic for January.
- Tick control could be a topic for March.
- Other possible topics were discussed including bears, SNAP program related topic, fencing, sheep herding, livestock breeding, diseases in chickens, soil health.

***Barn Tax Program Update**

- Tom Dimaggio dropped off an application to a farm. There was a discussion around how to try to increase participation in the program. A suggestion was made to give participants a plaque to display on their barns for recognition.

New Business

- The possibility of having an agriculture related scholarship was revisited. Dollars for Scholars presented last year and had suggested approximately \$1,000 would be needed for the scholarship. Alternatives to the scholarship were discussed, including donating to the Candia food pantry. More ideas will be discussed at the next Agricultural Commission meeting. Funds for these ideas were discussed and projected expenditures for the Farmer's Markets were reviewed. It was suggested that the projected expenditures be listed on the financial statements for the Agricultural Commission account.

Public Comment

- No Public comments.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2023, Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment:

*Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:09PM, moved by Darrel Nafranowicz, seconded by Melissa Madden, all in favor unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Robin Vergato, Secretary**