



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

FINAL MINUTES

December 7, 2023

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matt Cobb, Robin Vergato, Tom DiMaggio, Joe Lamarche, Darrel Nafranowicz, Melissa Madden. Excused: Ron Howe.

Commission Alternates present: Debra Cobb, Pattie Davis (Arrived at 7:05 PM), Ken Madden, Alex Campbell, Richard Ascolillo.

Call to Order

*Chair Matt Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on November 2, 2023.**

-Moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Darrel Nafranowicz, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-Treasurer Deb Cobb reported the account balance is \$4,936.61. Deposits were \$144.28 and expenditures for the last month were reviewed. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Darrel Nafranowicz and seconded by Ken Madden, passed unanimously.

Public in Attendance

- No Public in attendance.

Old Business

***Farmers Market**

-The Farmers Market proposed budget for 2024 was reviewed. For 2023, the Agricultural Commission bank account with balances/receipts/disbursements and the Farmers

Market with sales/expenditures/sponsorships/monthly income/profits, were reviewed. There was a profit in each Farmers Market.

-The Farmers Market is looking for sponsorships for 2024 and ideas were offered around how to acknowledge the sponsors.

-Vendor rates will increase in 2024. Vendors who participated in 3 or more Markets in 2023 and sign up before 1/31/24, will receive last year's rates. Returning vendors can begin signing up 1/15/24 and new vendors can apply as of 2/1/24.

***Lecture Series**

-The apple butter demonstration with presenter Tracy Blevins held last month went well and folks enjoyed the event. Attendees made some recommendations for future event topics: pressure canning, sewing/knitting/crocheting, soap making. The \$10 fee to participate was returned to attendees.

-It was suggested that there be a donation jar at the lecture series events and at the Candia Farmers Markets to support the Agricultural Commission endeavors.

- Wendy Berry from Lasting Legacy Farm will present on Rodent control on 1/9/24 and this will be held at the library. Melissa Madden will make fliers and they will be distributed and posted.

-A moose presentation will be held on 2/6/24 and will likely be held at the library. There will be two presenters from Fish and Game and there will be a question and answer at the end. There will be no cost to attend.

-There will be a presentation by Marc Notarangelo from Public Health on avoiding ticks in agriculture. This will be held on 3/5/24 at 7 PM likely at the library. There will be no cost to attend.

-For April, a presentation on raising chickens and backyard poultry is being considered.

-For May, a topic is not yet finalized, and cheese making was suggested.

-In February, "Underdog" a movie that focuses on the life of a Vermont dairy farmer, will have a showing. A location will need to be finalized and a large tv or screen will be needed. There is a \$99 fee that the Agricultural Commission will be paying.

***Barn Tax Program Update**

-Re-enrollment letters are ready to go out and were reviewed by the Agricultural Commission members. The applications will need to be submitted by April 15, 2024.

New Business

-Chair Matt Cobb is preparing the Agricultural Commission year end report with a financial report, to be included in the annual Town report.

-The Agricultural Commission expiring terms for 2024 were reviewed: voting members Joe Lamarche and Ron Howe, and alternate Deb Cobb.

-Suggestions were made for future events: ice sculpture contest, pumpkin carving contest.

Public Comment

-No Public comments.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2024, Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment:

*Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM, moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, all in favor unanimously.

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