



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

FINAL MINUTES

March 7, 2024

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

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

Commission Alternates present: Debra Cobb, Pattie Davis (arrived at 7:30PM), Ken Madden, Richard Ascolillo. Excused: Alex Campbell.

Call to Order

*Chair Matt Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:58PM.

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

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on February 1, 2023.**

-Moved by Ron Howe, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-Treasurer Deb Cobb reported the account balance is \$6,220.63. Vendor fees were deposited. Debits were made for the town report ads. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Tom DiMaggio and seconded by Darrel Nafranowicz, passed unanimously.

Public in Attendance

- No Public in attendance.

Old Business

***Reappointments**

-Ron Howe, Debra Cobb, and Joe Lamarche were approved for 3 more years.

***Farmer's Market**

- A local vendor will provide wholesale and preorder fish and these items will be available at the community table.
- Vendor numbers for each month were reviewed. September is the lowest with 36 vendors and there were up to 47 confirmed vendors.
- The music for each month has been finalized. There will be a polka band in October.
- The solar company will be a sponsor again.
- Renting or purchasing picnic tables will be explored so that there will be more areas to sit in.
- Matt Cobb will be sharpening knives again with the wheel in August and September. The wheel will be displayed in July.
- Children's activities are being lined up. In July and October there will be a spinning wheel for wool demonstration.
- Craft vendors are still needed. 8 breweries are signed up for October and there will be at least 5 breweries at each Farmer's Market.
- A book signing by Candia authors is being explored.
- Sponsorship forms for the Farmer's Market will be passed out in the community.

***Lecture Series**

- The moose presentation had approximately 30 people and there was \$50 in donations.
- The presentation on avoiding ticks was very informative. It had a low attendance.
- The showing of the movie "Underdog" was successful and had very good attendance. There was \$50 in donations.
- On April 10th at the library there will be a presentation on raising chickens and backyard poultry with presenter Rich Ascolillo.
- In May there will be a presentation on the "State of Birds in NH" by Pam Hunt of the Audubon Society, and it will be held on May 16th at 7PM. The fee of \$250 plus travel will be split by the library, Conservation Commission, and the Agricultural Commission.
- Attendance at lectures this year has been good with 15-20 people or more attending. There was some discussion about how to increase attendance. It was suggested to advertise on the school sign.

***Barn Program**

- Letters have been sent out with a deadline of April 15th in order to get on the tax easement plan for the current tax year. This will be to receive an abatement on taxes for qualified agricultural structures only. 3 people are reapplying. New applications can be received at any time. There is no cost. Applications will be added to the town website.

New Business

***Old Home Day**

- There is a signup sheet. The event will be held on August 24th. The Farmer's Market will likely not attend this year. There was a discussion around what the Agricultural Commission will do for a presence this year. This will be explored further at future meetings.

***Agriculture Day at the School**

-There is no one heading this up and Agriculture Day at the school is not scheduled to be held this year. It was suggested to check in with the school board to see if Agriculture Day can be continued.

***NH Preservation Alliance**

-They would like the Agricultural Commission to join. After some discussion, it was decided not to join.

Public Comment

-No Public comments.

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

Adjournment:

*Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:58PM, moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Darrel Nafranowicz, all in favor unanimously.

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