



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

FINAL MINUTES

May 2, 2019

Thursday 7:00PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matthew Cobb (arrived at 7:25pm), Vice Chair June Petrin, Jaqueline Wilkins, Tom DiMaggio, Debbie Graff. Excused: William Haas, Jenny Tyler

Commission Alternates present: Robin Vergato, Debra Cobb, Dick Snow, Joe Lamarche. Excused: Pattie Davis

Call to Order

- Vice Chair June Petrin called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by Commission Members and Alternates.

Regular Business

- Acceptance of minutes from April 4, 2019; moved by Jaqueline Wilkins, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, passed unanimously. The members suggest the draft minutes be sent out to commission members via email prior to monthly meetings.
- Introduction of Joe Lamarche, alternate member.

Old Business

- Updates on events:
The Agriculture Commission will have a table at The Farmer's Wife on 5/18/19 10AM-2PM. A discussion was held regarding "grow your own seeds", thank you labels/banner, handouts, balloons, selling local agriculture-related products to raise money for the Agriculture Commission General Fund, having an agriculture-related survey to be used to help develop a member list of Candia's Agriculture Community. June Petrin will continue to work on the survey that will be used.
- There was a discussion around fundraising that will be needed for the newly established Agricultural Commission General Fund.
- Updates on other Boards/Commissions:
Dick Snow attended a Planning Board Meeting. Agriculture Commission members are invited to attend Planning Board sessions 5/22/19 at 6PM and 6/5/19 at 6PM.
Chair Matt Cobb communicated with the Chairs of The Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

- Tom DiMaggio noted he plans to attend meetings around a new management plan for Bear Brook.

New Business

- There was a discussion around the need to have an Email address for the Agricultural Commission. Dick Snow will organize this.
- Members discussed the ways that a Facebook Agriculture Page could be used to enhance agriculture in Candia (information sharing-gathering and education).
- Chair Matt Cobb distributed USDA literature that can be used to define large vs small farms. This literature was reviewed and discussed. A grandfathered clause related to existing farms in Candia was discussed, along with Right to Farm laws. Tom DiMaggio and Dick Snow highlighted the town does not currently have Zoning for agriculture.
- Chair Matt Cobb emphasized 4 key points for The Agricultural Commission to keep in mind moving forward:
 1. Protect existing farms with a right to continue.
 2. Grandfathering current properties.
 3. Differentiate size of farms based on income and ownership.
 4. The importance of getting agriculture back into zoning- helping with the way it is defined.
- There was a discussion around utilizing the State's Best Management Practices.

Other Business

- Chair Matt Cobb distributed a handout on The NH Right to Know Law and RSA 21:34A Farm, Agriculture, and Farming for the Commission to reference as needed.
- There was a discussion regarding a Local Regulation of Agriculture Tool Kit that the state has available on line, along with The Coalition for Sustaining NH Agriculture that can be referenced.
- NH Farm Bureau Federation "Farm Free or Die" stickers were distributed to Commission members.

Opportunity for the Public to address the Commission:

- Charlana Bilodeau offered suggestions around the Agriculture Survey and communications with the Commission.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2019 Thursday at 7:00PM

Adjournment

Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM. Motion to adjourn moved by Jacqueline Wilkins, seconded by Debbie Graff, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Robin Vergato, Secretary