



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

FINAL MINUTES

November 7, 2019

Thursday 6:30PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matthew Cobb, Vice Chair June Petrin, Jenny Tyler, Jacqueline Wilkins, Tom DiMaggio, Debbie Graff(arrived at 6:34PM), William Haas.

Commission Alternates present: Robin Vergato, Debra Cobb, Dick Snow, Pattie Davis(arrived at 6:35PM), Joe Lamarche(arrived at 6:45PM).

Call to Order

- Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by Commission Members and Alternates.

Regular Business

- **Approval of Minutes From Last Meeting**
 - Unanimously accepted, moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by Jacqueline Wilkins.
- **Treasurers Report**
 - Status quo with funds. An AG banner was purchased for \$151 and the banner was viewed by the commission members.

Opportunity for public to address the board/Request for assistance from Code Officer

- Code Officer, Dave Murray, spoke about an ongoing problem on Lane Rd regarding a property with approximately 100 chickens/geese/turkeys roaming onto other properties in the neighborhood and blocking the road. He reported that last year there were complaints regarding pigs at this same property. RSA 635:3 Trespassing Stock or Domestic Fowl was discussed.
- Animal Control Officer, Deb Martel, spoke about ongoing problems at the same property and was at this location several weeks ago saying she observed "wall-to-wall birds" with "wildlife covering the back yard". Deb Martel is recommending that the state return to view the property and assess.
- Linda Tierney who lives next-door to this property, spoke at length and expressed frustration regarding the disruption to the neighborhood caused by the poultry/fowl. Ms. Tierney also reports that there was a fire last year that was "taller than their house". Reports at that time she did speak with the police regarding her concerns.

- Richard and Kathleen Bless who live next-door also to this property, wrote a letter to the Agricultural Commission and spoke tonight about how there has been burning of chicken waste, “mice/rats/bears/coyotes” in the area allegedly due to the conditions. They report “squalor”, “flies everywhere”, “bags of garbage all around” and a “strong odor”. They also report three weeks ago a “huge explosion shook our house from material that was being burned at the property”.
- Mr and Mrs Gomm, who live nearby to the Lane Rd property also expressed their frustrations regarding the situation. They discussed how they would like to know “who to go to” with their concerns so that something can be done to address the problem. Chair Matthew Cobb suggested speaking with the Fire Department, Police Department, and Animal Control Officer.
- Chair Matthew Cobb highlighted that the agriculture commission is not regulatory and our role is to advise.
- There was a discussion amongst Agricultural Commission members and it was decided that we can reach out via letter to the Lane Rd property that is the focus of the complaints to offer resources and education if they are interested.

Old Business

- **Review of Beekeeping Lecture**
 - A lot of people attended this event and email addresses were obtained for those interested in future events/ being added for Agricultural Commission updates.
- **Upcoming Lecture Schedule**
 - Need to confirm attendance for the soap making class that will be held on 11/14 6:30-9:00PM at the Congregational Church. Pattie Davis cannot attend and has messaged all potential attendees and is trying to determine if there will be a waitlist. There is a 10 person capacity for this event. Jacqueline Wilkins will attend.
 - There was a discussion about future lecture events including a possible maple sugaring event in January. There was discussion around possibly having a lecture event regarding starting gardens/ starting seeds/ seed trading in the spring.
- **Review of Zoning Changes**
 - There was a lengthy discussion regarding Proposed Agricultural Zoning Ordinances Updates. Further discussion was held regarding changing the definition of Agriculture to RSA 21:34a. It is recommended that “accessories” and “primary” be removed.
 - After a discussion by members, Tom DiMaggio moved it be requested that 3 acres be changed to 2 acres of land where horse, bovine, or swine shall not be permitted except by special exemption. Debbie Graff seconded. June Petrin abstained.
 - There was a discussion regarding the draft zoning amendment. It was highlighted that F1 has not been changed.
- **Review of Funding Warrant Article**
 - Members reviewed the warrant article request for \$1,000 funding of The Agricultural Commission. A letter was submitted to the Board of Selectman by Chair Matthew Cobb.

New Business

- **Preliminary Discussion of Farmer’s Market**
 - Tabled.

Other Business

- Two months before re-appointment of Tom DiMaggio and Jenny Tyler.

Public Comment

- Sandra Allen reports she enjoyed the Bee Keeping event and would like to see a Chicken Raising event.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2019 Thursday at 6:30PM.

Adjournment

Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM, moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by Jacqueline Wilkins, all in favor unanimously.

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