



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

FINAL MINUTES

March 5, 2020

Thursday 6:30PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matthew Cobb, Vice Chair June Petrin, Jacqueline Wilkins. Excused: Jenny Tyler, William Haas, Tom DiMaggio.

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

Call to Order

- Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by Commission Members and Alternates.

Regular Business

- **Approval of Minutes From Last Meeting**
 - Moved by Jacqueline Wilkins, seconded by June Petrin, passed unanimously.
- **Treasurers Report**
 - Jacqueline Wilkins provided an update: currently \$615.70 in the Agricultural Commission account.

Opportunity for Public to Address the Board

- David Bowie highlighted that “current use” could be helpful for farms and this tax break could encourage more farms.

Old Business

- **Update on Appointments**
 - Chair Matthew Cobb reported that the Board of Selectmen have approved Robin Vergato to move from Alternate to a Voting Member.
- **Update on Monthly Lecture Series**

- Pattie Davis reported that the “Ready Your Garden” event was well attended. The next event will be “Raising Chickens” by Elaina Enzien on 3/19/20 at 6:30PM held at the Library. On 4/16/20, will be “Planting with Pollinators” presented by a Master Gardener. The speaker will charge \$50 to present plus \$20 travel. An inquiry has been made to see if the Garden Club and/or Library could share this expense. The 5/14/20 event will be on “Composting”-not sure yet if there will be a fee charged by the presenter? There was a discussion that there might have to be a small charge for people who attend future events. We are still searching for future speakers. A motion was made by June Petrin, seconded by Robin Vergato, to pay \$70 from the Agricultural Fund for the “Planting for Pollinators” event, passed unanimously. A suggestion was made that donations for those who attend the event be accepted. Jacqueline Wilkins offered to organize a flier for the “Raising Chickens” event.
- **Update on Town Wide Yard Sale**
 - Jacqueline Wilkins posted on the Agricultural Commission Face Book site. Matthew Cobb to check in with Jenny Tyler regarding the status of donations for the Town wide yard sale. Jacqueline Wilkins offered to do a flier for this event.
- **Update on Farmer’s Market**
 - The Farmer’s Market Subcommittee has met. The first choices for the location of the Farmer’s Market are the Library or Moore’s Park and the second choice is at CYAA. The Subcommittee is looking into laws and bi-laws, LLC, Sole Proprietor, insurances. The Farmer’s Market can be marketed at Candia Old Home Day.
- **Update on Meeting at NH Farm Bureau**
 - Matthew Cobb and Pattie Davis attended.
- **Updates on Member Bio’s**
 - Jacqueline Wilkins will start looking into this. They will be added to the Town Web Page.

New Business

- **Recommendations of Alternates**
 - Ron Howe has been on the list for those interested and was in attendance tonight.
 - The Girard’s who attended the last Agricultural Commission meeting, have expressed interest and are members of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau.
 - Debbie Graff is interested in returning as an Alternate.
 - The list of those previously interested will be reviewed. The open Alternate position will be advertised on the Town Website and Town Face Book site. Jacqueline will coordinate these postings. Those interested should submit their names by 3/26/20, before the next 4/2/20 Agricultural Commission meeting.
 - Possible criteria considered for Commission members and Alternates could be: Availability, Involvement, Assistance provided to the Commission.
 - A motion was made by Jacqueline Wilkins, seconded by June Petrin, to recommend to the Board of Selectman that Ron Howe fill one of the two Alternate positions, passed unanimously. Chair Matthew Cobb will submit a letter of recommendation to the Select Board.
- **Invitation to Stratford County Farm Bureau Breakfast**
 - Being held on this upcoming Sunday 7:30AM – 12:00PM at Grange Hall in Lee.

- **Poulin Grain tags**
 - Debra Cobb is looking into this.
- **Fundraising will be discussed at a future meeting**

Public Comment

- Ron Howe asked a question regarding how the Farmer's Market will get started and highlighted a need for regular attendance of local vegetable growers as some of the vendors. There was a discussion regarding his question and comments, including the need for maintaining the same location.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2020 Thursday at 6:30PM.

Adjournment

Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 7:27PM, moved by June Petrin, seconded by Jacqueline Wilkins, all in favor unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Robin Vergato, Secretary