



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

FINAL MINUTES

November 4, 2021

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matthew Cobb, Vice Chair June Petrin, Tom DiMaggio, Ron Howe, Joe Lamarche, Darrel Nafranowicz. Excused: Robin Vergato.

Commission Alternates present: Debra Cobb, Pattie Davis. Excused Ken Madden, Cody Wood

Call to Order

*Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

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

Public in Attendance

*One person interested in becoming an alternate attended.

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on October 7, 2021**

-moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by June Petrin, all in favor unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-Debra Cobb reported additional income of \$235.00 from the Farmers Market. The Agricultural Commission account has a balance of \$2334.56. There was an additional profit of \$245.00 from the Agricultural Commission Community table at the Farmers Market not yet deposited into the account. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Joe Lamarche, seconded by Ron Howe, all in favor unanimously.

Old Business

***Membership Update**

-Cody Wood has been approved as an alternate and Darrel Nafranowicz has been approved as a voting member.

-Two members of the public have expressed interest in the available alternate position. Heidi Bothwell submitted a letter of interest. David Bowie attended the meeting and renewed his interest in the position. Mr. Bowie advised will be submitting a letter of interest for the position. Both candidates will be reviewed for consideration at the December meeting.

***Lecture Series**

-November's lecturer is Christine Schadler from the New England Coyote Project who will be presenting on 11/9/21 to be held at the Smith Public Library at 7:00pm. Maximum capacity for in-person attendance is 28. Therefore, the lecture will be available via ZOOM (being set up by Dick Snow) to cover any overflow interest. June Petrin will post the link on the Candia Agriculture Commission Facebook page.

-January's lecture with Forester, Greg Jordan, has been set for 1/11/2022 at 7:00pm. Mr. Jordan's presentation will focus on small woodlot management and Emerald Ash Borers.

-February lecture proposal is on the subject of composting. This is not yet confirmed. Other lectures series are under consideration, i.e., food preservation methods, and birds of prey and their impact on agriculture with Jane Kelly is being considered.

-We are looking at larger venues than the Smith Public Library due to its 28-person capacity. Masonic hall, the old library, and the Congregational church were discussed.

***Zoning Amendment**

-Chair, Matt Cobb, contacted Rudy Cartier relative to the proposed Warrant Article, regarding Zoning Amendment for large gathers in town and the potential impact on the Farmers Market. Rudy Cartier advised they intent to open this back up for a public hearing. Mr. Cartier advised that it was not intended to impact gatherings of the nature of the Farmers Market.

*** Farmer's Market Wrap Up**

-The 2021 season of the Farmers Market was well received. October was not as well attended as prior months, likely due to competing events at the Deerfield Fairgrounds.

- June Petrin advised regarding the organization of a Market Committee to involve vendors in the discussion and planning of 2022's market, and the utilization of the Candia Farmers Market Facebook page. Thus far one vendor has responded and June Petrin will reach out again to our vendors after the holidays.

-Roland Gerard's booth was well received, and Mr. Gerard is willing to consider doing a booth again in 2022.

-The Agricultural Commission Community table performed very well in October, providing additional profit of \$245.00.

- We discussed the issue of the weight of goods for sale. Any produce or goods being sold are to be properly labeled and marked prior to being brought to the premises. There will be no scales on premises.

-June Petrin and Patti Davis are the organizers of the Farmers Market, and will continue to be the organizers for 2022. They appreciated all the help of others this season and will be seeking additional help and assistance for 2022. If the market continues to do well, we would consider the need for a person to manage the market with the possibility of monetary compensation. We are considering more advertising expense for the 2022 season.

-Chair, Matt Cobb spoke to different people from town that were motivated by this year's Farmers Market to start their own agricultural enterprises and participate in the 2022 Farmers Market. Several other members of the commission expressed similar experiences with

the public, i.e., receiving inquiries into which vegetables sold the most and at what times of the season.

- Additional vendors are being sought, Patti Davis is looking to add another vendor that sells fish.

***Town Open House Night at the CYAA**

- Fun event, well received, lots of interest and questions on what we do. Maybe additional notice to the town residents would have yielded higher public turn out.

New Business

***New Hampshire Preservation Alliance**

- June Petrin raised the question of the Agricultural Commission becoming a member of the Alliance. There is a \$50.00 yearly membership fee. The Alliance promotes saving historically significant properties and buildings in New Hampshire. They provide education, advertising, promotions, as well as provide donations and some grants. It's an organization that may be assistive to the Agricultural Commission. Tom DiMaggio asked for more information and if they would come speak with us. June Petrin will circulate additional information for the further review and consideration.

Public Comment

-David Bowie raised the question if donations to the Agricultural Commission were tax deductible and the formation of a 501C3 organization. Chair, Matt Cobb will look into if it is appropriate or even possible to have a town committee also a 501C3 organization.

Next Meeting: December 2, 2021 Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment

*Chair Matthew Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM, moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by June Petrin, all in favor unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Darrel Nafranowicz, on behalf of Robin Vergato, Secretary**