



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

FINAL MINUTES

June 2, 2022

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

Commission Members present: Chair Matthew Cobb, Tom DiMaggio, Darrel Nafranowicz, Ron Howe, Melissa Madden (newly approved and appointed), Joe Lamarche (arrived at 7:16pm). Excused: Robin Vergato.

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

Call to Order

*Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

Public in Attendance

No public attendance.

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on May 5, 2022**

-Moved by Darrel Nafranowicz, seconded by Ron Howe, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-Debra Cobb reported there is balance of \$3,188.90 in the Agricultural Commission bank account. \$108.00 expenditure with \$58.00 to be credited back from the cancelled check to UNH. \$50 is to be reimbursed to June Petrin for CFM signs. Melissa Madden has additional market expenditures that will be invoiced. Mrs. Becker is out and they are looking to fill a full-time position.

***Approval of the treasures report**

-Moved by Ron Howe, seconded by Melissa Madden, passed unanimously.

Old Business

***Candia Farmer’s Market (CFM) Update**

-Melissa Madden advised the CFM has 26 vendors confirmed for June. Pattie Davis advised one of the vendors is Fresh Start Farm in Manchester NH, made up of 25 refugee farmers who will be bringing locally grown produce. We will have 3 produce vendors plus the Community Table. Signs will be ready to be put up June 12th. We still need stands for signs. Advertisements for the CFM are on Facebook, and our new webpage <https://candiafarmersmarket.org>, the Weekly Market Bulletin, and The Neighborhood news. Additional advertisements being explored.

We need volunteers for the market, a sign-up sheet was passed around for commission members and alternates to sign up – We still have extra spaces to be filled. An additional canopy will be needed, Cody Wood confirmed he will supply one for the season.

Melissa Madden discussed setting up a kids table in June to have the kids plant seeds. Ron Howe has a huge bin of seeds that he will bring to the market. Ron Howe also has pots and soil which he will supply for the kids. Tom DiMaggio will see about getting more seeds from Lowe’s to have available at the Agricultural Commission booth. We will have the harrow at the market again this year.

***Lecture Series for Winter 22-23**

-The Coyote and Birds of Prey presentations were well received and we discussed repeating them again this coming season. Other suggestions were made, tanning, poultry, bears, tree trimming, maple sugaring, hand pollinating, soap making, canning/preserving. It was noted that the library will be resuming their lecture series, and in September have planned a lecture on foraging and wild mushrooms.

The proposed list of lectures for the 2022-2023 winter series are as follows:

November	Canning – Pattie Davis will arrange.
January	Maple sugaring – Todd Keating was suggested as a presenter
February	Bears – NH Fish and Game to present
March	Fruit tree pruning - with Jeremy Delisle
April	Pollination – Master Gardener
May	Birds of Prey – On The Wing

***Heritage Barn Program**

- This program has been accepted by the Agricultural Commission. Ken Madden will handle organizing the barn program. He will provide information on the inspection process and the check list required. The inspections are not involved or detailed, we are not engineers, we are not certifying the structural integrity of the structure.

***Agricultural Day recap**

- The day was a complete success. 20 presented both in and outside of the school, each grade went around to each presenter. The traveling pet farm was a big success the kids loved it. Meg Morenz is retiring but said she will come back in 2 years to help organize this event again. The State of NH Commissioner of Agriculture was present and gave an opening speech. Only 3 or 4 schools in the State hold Agricultural day.

New Business

***Old Home Day**

- This year, Old Home Days is August 27th. We will have a booth. We will have a sign-up sheet for emails to help add to our list and continue to provide information on agriculture and the market. Discussed having a bulletin board with activities we are planning.

***Planning Board Public Hearing**

-Judy Lindsey with the Conservation Commission approached our Chair about the proposed senior housing structure/development at the Old Fitts Farm at 23 Main Street, and the Agricultural Commission's position on the granting of waivers necessary to develop the land at the center of town. The owner of the property, Scott Komisarek, has proposed a 28 unit elderly housing development. This development would require waivers of a number of ordinances to get approval. Concern was expressed regarding the destruction of the Fitts Farm and the farm land it sits on. The farm sits on a significant agricultural resourced in this town. It is the Agricultural Commission's mission to protect and preserve the agricultural integrity of this town and the development of agricultural land. A development such as this at the center of town negatively impacts the agricultural integrity of the town. In addition, the people of Candia voted against zoning that would allow this type pf development and the Planning board should consider the will of the voters. The Agricultural Commission agreed to recommend against the granting of waivers. Chair Matt Cobb to prepare draft for review. Moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by Joe Lamarche, passed unanimously. Chair Matt Cobb to prepare draft for review.

Public Comment

-No Public comments.

Next Meeting: July 7, 2022, Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment

*Chair Matthew Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:17PM, moved by Ron Howe, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, all in favor unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Darrel Nafranowicz for Robin Vergato, Secretary**