



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

FINAL MINUTES

July 28, 2022

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

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

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

Call to Order

*Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:07PM.

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

Public in Attendance

No public attendance.

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting July 7, 2022** with minor typographical edit.

-Moved by Tom DiMaggio and seconded by Melissa Madden, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-Due to moving this meeting up one week, Debra Cobb reported the statement was not made available and will be reported next month.

Old Business

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

- Melissa Madden advised that our vendors reported great sales at the last market. Two Vendors failed to show, One produce vendor and one bakery vendor. There was a communication breakdown with the produce vendor. They now have the information on how to notify us going forward.

The contest is going very well, so far, we have had 151 people sign up. We will be running the contest on Facebook. We will announce the winner on 8-17 and they will have to be at the Market on 8-20 to collect their prizes.

The photographer took pictures at the last market that will be posted on our webpage. There was a brief discussion of pictures being posted. The market is a public space with no anticipation of privacy. However, if a picture gets posted that someone does not want made public, we will remove those photos from the website.

We are continuing to advertise with the Neighborhood News over the next three weeks, compliments of our Sponsor, Charmingfair Farm.

We continue to need volunteers for the market. Matt Cobb, Deb Cobb, Tom DiMaggio and Darrel Nafranowicz will not be at the market on 8-20. Penny is a new town resident that had expressed interest in helping out. 5 commission members will be present.

We are planning to have a mini-Octoberfest/Crafts fair at our October Market. We discussed extending the hours till 2pm for that Market as long as all vendors agree. We will have 3 breweries and 1 winery. We discussed getting a vendor that would make candy apples, and having pumpkins and cornstalks and other fall fare available.

The Market inspector with the State of NH, Department of Agriculture, Markets and Foods, Division of Weights and Measures came to our July market. He took the time to go booth to booth and provide education and feed back to help assist us with running our Market and to assist and educate our vendors as well.

We discussed the SNAP/EBT program. Chair Matt Cobb confirmed we are a government entity. All the vendors have agreed to participate. We would need a slush fund as the turnaround time for the money to be deposited into our account is approximately 1 week. Morgan Moran had advised there are grants we can apply for. We agreed our vendors should be paid the day of the market and that a separate cash box will need to be maintained solely for the SNAP/EBT program. Treasure Deb Cobb has been working with Jessica regarding what is necessary to get a bank account set up for the SNAP/EBT deposits. The Commission needs to vote on moving forward with the program and if we pass the vote, then Jessica will speak to the town treasurer to find out the steps to set up an account.

Chair Matt Cobb advised we would need a motion to go forward to have the Candia Farmers Market be a SNAP/EBT vendor. Motion was moved by Melissa Madden and seconded by Darrel Nafranowicz. The motion passed unanimously after brief discussion on logistics.

We discussed the need to add an addendum to the CFM sign in front of the library as it gives the impression that we run the market every Saturday, June through October.

We briefly discussed the many comments we received of running two markets a month. We do not have the volunteers needed to be able to run 2 per month at this time. We can discuss this further at the wrap up after the end of the season.

***Old Home Days**

-Old Home days is scheduled for August 27th, from 11-2. Set up is at 9am-10:30am. Tear down cannot start before 2pm. Parking will be across the street at the school. Pattie Davis was unable to get a commitment from Envirothon for the soils tent. They don't own the tent, they have people to run the tent, but were not privy to when the tent would be available therefore the tent is no longer an option for Old Home Days. In the meantime, we rented 2 spaces and paid \$50 for the two 10/10 spots. The commission agreed to set up the Community Table in the 2nd stall and sell produce as we do at the Farmers Market. We will invite our produce vendors to provide their produce for sale and we will not take the 10% surcharge as we do at the Farmers Market.

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

- No new information to add at this time. Further follow up is needed with the potential lecturers.

***Historic Barn Program**

- There are presently 10 barns in the program in Candia that need to be inspected. Ken Madden is running the program. He will be available to handle inspections in September. Tom DiMaggio, Ron Howe and Matt Cobb had all agreed to assist Ken Madden with these inspections. Two volunteers will be need at each barn. There is a check list to be completed and photographs to be taken. The inspections are generally in the spring and will inspect again in the Spring of 2023. We are not ready to accept new applications at this time, that process will resume after the first of the year.

***Main Street Property update**

- The Planning Board acknowledged the Agricultural Commission's letter in opposition to the project. However, the Planning board still granted the waivers. There was discussion regarding the commission's disappointment with the Planning Board granting of the waivers, for the reasons outlined in our letter. There was further discussion regarding the concern over traffic issues that will be created.

New Business

***Budget**

The legislature specifies that the Agricultural Commission, if funded by the town, must be funded via a warrant article. It was discussed that we are self-sustaining civic entity and do not require additional funds from the town. All members are volunteers, all positions are volunteer. Chair Matt Cobb proposed motion to not request funds via a warrant article. Moved by Darrel Nafranowicz, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, unanimously approved.

***Community Garden**

Interest was expressed in creating a community garden. The Agricultural Commission cannot own property. We could work with another property owner, potentially the Conservation Commission as they can own land, or even the school.

***Seed Library**

Agricultural commission can provide assistance with the seed library. We will explore ways we can assist for the Spring of 2023.

Public Comment

-No Public comments.

Next Meeting: September 1, 2022, Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment

*Chair Matthew Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:09PM, moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, all in favor unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by, Darrel Nafranowicz for Robin Vergato, Secretary