



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

### FINAL MINUTES

**August 3, 2023**

**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, Ken Madden.

#### **Call to Order**

\*Chair Matthew Cobb called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

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

#### **Public in Attendance**

Alex Cambell and Richard Ascolillo.

#### **Regular Business**

**\*Approval of Minutes with edit from Last Meeting July 6, 2023.**

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

#### **\*Treasurer's Report**

-Treasurer's report was presented with deposits and expenditures for the Farmers Market, with a balance of \$5698.16. Granite State Market Match reimbursement will take 6-8 weeks. We are expecting \$25.00 for July's Market. Approval of the Treasurer's report was Moved by Ken Madden and seconded by Melissa Madden, passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

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

- Melissa Madden advised the CFM was voted the #1 Farmers Market, the winner of the Union Leaders Readers' Choice award. The July market had very good attendance. We have a new bakery, Alpha Bakery for Aug, Sept and Oct. Brody Bakery will be here one more month in September. Baking Bean failed to show for July. JP Eats is planning more option for our Mini-Octoberfest. Additional Breweries and Cider vendors needed for Oct. Deerfield Farmers Market is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month; we advertise for each other. We have new vendors. Comrie and Sweet River will be attending Sept and Oct with felted wool, milk and cheese.

Melissa Maden volunteered to pick blueberries for the August Market. We have a new volunteer Jen who helped with the community table and will be helping with parking signs at the August market. Parking for the vendors will be in the playground lot behind the school. Additional open spaces will be available for customer parking. Agreed we need more parking signs. Tom DiMaggio will assist with parking at the August Market. Pattie Davis is handling the kids tent.

Midnight Soap Works vendor was previously removed as a vendor at the Market. The vendor appealed to the Agricultural commission. The letter is entered into the minutes as is. The commission considered her comments, and the complete supporting documentation for review. It is the Commissions position that the CFM committee acted in accordance with its Policies and Procedures and there is no reason for any further activity. Approval of the motion to not reinstate Midnight Soap Works was Moved by Tom DiMaggio and seconded by Debra Cobb, passed unanimously.

For the 2024 Market season, we will update our Policies and Procedures with a written set of protocols regarding the handling of non-compliant vendors and clearly define the review process.

Budget projections to be discuss to include allocation of funds, IE scholarship ideas, Lecture series, CFM could use new picnic tables/benches.

#### **\*Lecture Series Ideas**

- Moose in NH – Joint presentation with the library. Chair Matt Cobb has been in contact with the NH Fish and Game and Nashua Community College. There is no cost for the lecture, however we cannot schedule their time more than 4 months in advance. To be discussed further.
- Pattie Davis with working to schedule a Canning seminar in November.
- Tom DiMaggio discussed presenting a “Movie Night” with the movie “Underdog” focusing on the life of a Vermont Dairy Farmer.
- Rodent control – Explore lecture regarding multiple approaches to rodent control including the use of dogs and possibly on birth control for rats and mice.

#### **\*Old Home Day**

-Old Home days is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. We reserved 2 booths. The 2<sup>nd</sup> booth will be a mini–Farmers Market booth. We have 2 volunteers. Alex Cambell with Forest Fed Farm and Rich Ascolillo with Back To Nature, will be manning the Farmers Market booth. Girard Farms may also join. We have a new vendor selling corn and melons who may also be interested in working the booth. Set up is at 9am. Hours of operation are 11am to 2pm. Tear down is at 2pm.

#### **\*Historic Barn Program**

- Ken Madden will have letters out to all the current residents on the program updating them that their reapplication is coming up due. They must resubmit their application by April 2024. The form for the Barn Program and sign-up sheet will be at the CFM. No new applicants signed up. Ken Madden will work to ID potential candidates for the Barn Program in September and get a mailing out to those residents.

### **New Business**

- \* Possible Alternate positions

- We have 2 open positions, both Alex Cambell (Forest Fed Farm) and Richard Ascolillo (Back To Nature) expressed interest in the positions.

-Alex Cambell has been a vendor at the CFM for the past 2 years and has been a volunteer at the market for 2023.

-Rich Ascolillo has an agriculture background and operates his own farm. Back to Nature is also been a vendor at the CFM

- Approval of the motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen their appointments as Alternates were Moved by Darrel Nafranowicz and seconded by Melissa Madden, passed unanimously.

Chair Matt Cobb recommended a letter of introduction from each candidate addressed to the Board of Selectmen. Chair Matt Cobb will be present for the Selectmens meeting regarding their potential appointments.

### **Public Comment**

- Alex Cambell (Forest Fed Farm) and Richard Ascolillo (Back To Nature) and alternate candidates. We have 2 open positions, both expressed interest in the positions outlining their backgrounds as noted above.

**Next Meeting:** September 7, 2023, Thursday at 7:00PM.

### **Adjournment**

\*Chair Matthew Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:11PM, moved by Tom DiMaggio, seconded by Ken Madden, all in favor unanimously.

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