



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

FINAL MINUTES

September 5, 2024

Thursday 7:00 PM

Candia Town Hall

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

Commission Alternates present: Debra Cobb, Pattie Davis. Excused: Ken Madden, Richard Ascolillo, Alex Campbell.

Call to Order

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

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

Regular Business

***Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting on August 1, 2024.**

-Moved by Darrel Nafranowicz, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report**

-The account balance is \$5,684.71. Deposits, expenses, and interest were reviewed. A trailer for the Farmer's Market was purchased and registered. Approval of the treasurer's report was moved by Melissa Madden and seconded by Darrel Nafranowicz, passed unanimously.

Public in Attendance

- No Public in attendance.

Old Business

***Farmer's Market**

-A foldable picnic table and trailer were purchased. The trailer was used last month for the Farmer's Market and it was very helpful for transporting needed items.

-The August Farmer's Market was successful. Less fish was ordered and most of it was sold. There were a few new vendors this month.

-There is an Open House on 11/29-Black Friday at Charmingfare Farm. There will be hay and train rides, campfires. There will be approximately 20-25 vendors invited. The Farmer's Market will advertise this event and will receive the vendor fees. A notice will be sent out to the vendors/artisans. The state said if the town approves, there can be alcohol sold there. There will be food options.

-There was a conversation with a representative of the state Vouchers for Veterans Program. Melissa Madden could train for this at the winter markets. If Vouchers for Veterans participates at the Candia Farmer's Market 3 volunteers would be needed and they would cover the cost and supplies.

-Volunteers are needed for September. There will be fresh apple cider and an apple pie baking contest with 17 applicants so far.

-Posters were distributed to the Agricultural Commission members.

-There is no more room to add more vendors in October.

-It was suggested that the children's table volunteers be remembered if leftover items are given out.

-There was a discussion around the importance of keeping the Agricultural Commission linked with the Farmer's Market.

-It was suggested that there be a raffle for the vendors and there be a monthly theme. There could be an independent judge for the best vendor displayed theme. A judge and volunteers would be needed for this. There could be an acknowledgement/recognition of a volunteer at each Farmer's Market.

-A volunteer coordinator is needed for the Farmer's Markets.

***Barn Program**

-Paperwork for renewals has been submitted to the Selectman for review next week.

***Lecture Series**

-On 9/26 Fish and Game will be presenting on Bobcats at the Library. This event will be posted on the Agricultural Commission Facebook page.

-Pattie Davis/Melissa Madden will reach out to a person who does pasta making and see if they can do a presentation in November.

-Matt Cobb talked with Lamprey River Series to see if they will be able to present in January or February.

-Matt Cobb talked to Nick Karacoudas to see if he can do a presentation related to crops.

-Other possible topics include composting, canning, crocheting/knitting, quilting, homesteading.

New Business

***Budget for Next Year**

-It was decided there will not be a warrant article submitted requesting money.

***Agriculture Day at the School**

-Meg Morenz will be in charge for this event that will be held in the spring of 2025.

***Donations for the Food Pantry**

-It was suggested that attendees at the Farmer's Markets could purchase items from the vendors and donate them to the Candia food pantry.

-There was a discussion around the Agricultural Commission possibly donating money to the food pantry and requesting that a representative from the Women's Club attend a meeting to talk about their program.

-There is a NH Grows program that could be promoted to facilitate donations of fresh produce to the food pantry.

***Senior Lunch Program**

-There was a discussion around the Agricultural Commission contributing money to the senior lunch program and providing a holiday meal.

Public Comment

-No Public comments.

Next Meeting: October 3, 2024, Thursday at 7:00PM.

Adjournment:

*Chair Matt Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:06PM, moved by Darrel Nafranowicz, seconded by Tom DiMaggio, all in favor unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Robin Vergato, Secretary**