



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

**FINAL MINUTES**

**July 1, 2025**

**Thursday 7:00 PM**

**Candia Town Hall**

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

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

**Call to Order**

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

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

- Chair Matthew Cobb welcomed our newest Commission Member, Michelle Lavallee, recently approved by the board to the Alternate Commission position. Congratulations Michelle.

**Public in Attendance**

- Jim Logan was present at the meeting to discuss his plans for the approximate 170 acres Seward/Bowman property on High Street. See details under Public Comment.

**Regular Business**

**\*Approval of Minutes from prior Meetings April 3, 2025 and June 6, 2025.**

-Insufficient members were present from the April meeting to be able to vote on the minutes. The minutes will have to stay in Draft form.

-Sufficient members were present from the June's meeting. Moved by Melissa Madden and seconded by Ron Howe, passed unanimously with edits.

**\*Treasurer's Report**

-No official treasures report presented. Melissa Madden provided an update on the contributions made by the Farmers Market. There is a current balance of \$12,365.67, up from a little over \$7,000.00 as the beginning 2025 balance. We have received \$4,100 in sponsorship donations, the most recent donation of \$599 from Deerfield Family Dentistry. There is an outstanding pending invoice from the Falconry demonstration to be processed.

**Old Business**

**\*Farmers Market Update -**

- Melissa Madden presented. The Union Leader Readers Choice voted Candia Farmers Market # 1 again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Ron Howe mentioned we are not very big, and what influences that vote. Location, music, food, early start time, variety of vendors, community feel, beautiful scenic appeal, kids activities and a great market manager, Melissa Madden. Michelle Lavallee discussed FM signs, we have 36 signs, 3 banners and 3 flags. She would like to start a "adopt a sign" program where volunteers will be responsible for their own signs. We discussed what areas of town need more signs. Deb Cobb suggested checking with the Fire Department and putting a sign there. Michelle Lavallee would like to follow up with Patriot Heating. Michelle Lavallee would like to see more signage at Exit #, however it being State Property there are limitations. Michelle Lavallee recommended a "Thank You" to the volunteers and maybe giving out market cash for volunteers.

**\*Old Home Day -**

- Old Home Day is scheduled for Saturday August 23. There is a \$20 booth fee. Pattie Davis mentioned the parade and possibly the Ag Commission be in the parade. Several ideas were floated about a possible activity, for example: scavenger hunt, or obstacle course of sorts, egg and spoon race, find an item in the pile of loose hay, raffle, cow pie bingo. To be discussed further.

**\*Barn Program Update**

- Ken Madden was absent, however Melissa Madden advised there were no additional applications received and no further update.

**New Business**

\*Organic Farmers Day of Action – Chair Matt Cobb received notice of the meeting set for Monday July 14<sup>th</sup> in Concord NH for anyone interested

\* Cranberry NJ – Pattie Davis brought to the Commission attention that the State of NJ is attempting to take a family's 175 year old farm and farmland by eminent domain for the purposes of a workforce housing development proposed by a private developer/entity. The home owner has filed a

**Public Comment**

- Jim Logan was present at the meeting to discuss his plans for the approximate 170 acres Seward/Bowman property on High Street. Mr Logan has presented his plans to the Planning Board for a 55+ community with houses in a cluster to preserve the pasture lands fields, open land and views. There is a barn on the property that could be potentially used as an equine community barn. Recommendations were made to have a full-time barn manager. He discussed consideration for subdividing out the Seward house as rental for other non 55+ community, almost like workforce housing. He is considering rental, for a property manager to maintain the farm, horse barn, etc., also the possibility of a perpetual lease of the farmland. Mr. Logan's focus that of preservation of pasture/farmland. There are approximately 12 acres of pasture that may be opened to greater pasture with the possibility of creating mini ponds. Mr. Logan intends to have a community garden.

Mr. Logan pointed out that hay is the town's biggest crop. However, there is a shortage of workers for the harvest. He expressed how he would like to see the Ag Commission facilitate an interest in the hay industry and the harvesting of this crop, by encouraging our youth. Make it a cool thing, have a list of those interested so that a farmer who's trying to bring in his crop has a list of workers they can call upon. Pinkerton FFA was raised as a possible resource, as well

as the UNH. Mr Logan brought up the Farmers Market and brought up a hay bale tossing contest or a hay maze.

**Next Meeting:** August 7, 2025, Tuesday at 7:00PM.

**Adjournment**

\* Chair Matthew Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:18PM, moved by Melissa Madden, seconded by Ron Howe, all in favor unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted by, Darrel Nafranowicz, Acting Secretary**