

Ag Commission Meeting 04/05/2023

Members Present: Mark Stevens, Ben Davis, Daimon Meeh, Jill McCullough, Josh Marshall

Members absent: Nicole Glines, George Glines

- Ben moved approval of the minutes from the January 5th meeting, motion was seconded by Josh. No edits or corrections, approved unanimously.
- The Commission took a moment to recognize Wayne Mann's commitment and years of service to the Ag Commission. Wayne was a founding member of the Ag Comm and served for many years in a number of roles including Chairman. He was a driving force in the Ag Commission and will be missed.
- Status of our current members: Mark and Jill's terms will expire in 2025. Ben and Daimon 2026. Nicole and George 2024. Josh's term will end in 2026. It was decided that we should invite at least two alternates to join. Some candidates were suggested and various members will follow up with invitations to attend and check out the meetings.
- Would like to connect with the Canterbury Farmers Market to discuss Ag related topics of mutual interest and benefit. Jill offered to be the liaison.
- Ken Folsom, Town Manager, asked that we be more prompt with the public posting of our agendas and minutes.
- Mark was asked if we would like a selectman representative to attend each meeting. The consensus was that the selectmen are spread thin and thought that we could continue with Selectman contact as needed, noting that the Ag Com is different from the other town boards in that the Ag Commission is advisory only. Members agreed that having a designated selectman for contact would be helpful.
- Looking to improve communication between the Ag Comm and Conservation Commission. Mark is willing to meet with Kelly Short to start that discussion.
- Election of new officers. Mark agreed to serve as Chairman for one year. Ben accepted the Vice-chair nomination, and Daimon the Secretary. Jill moved to accept the slate of candidates for office as unopposed, Josh seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion about official job descriptions and duties for the officers on the Commission. It was agreed that we should develop or find position descriptions to formalize. Jill said she would look for her binder from when the Ag Commission first got started.

- We decided the commission should continue their presence in the Canterbury Newsletter and the following topics were considered and assigned:
 - May-reorg- Mark
 - June hay/dairy Ben or Nicole
 - July-farmers market-Jill
 - August-NH Eat Local-Josh
 - September-Apples- Ben
 - October-Pumpkins- Josh
 - November-
 - December-Christmas trees-Mark
- Mark updated the Commission on communications with Planning Board Chairman, Greg Meeh, pertaining to proposed revisions to the Master Plan where the Ag Comm had previously expressed concerns. In particular:
 - Discussion about splitting the Ag/conservation zone. The planning board had decided not to pursue dividing the zones.
 - The discussed agricultural overlay zoning district was not going to be pursued either.
 - The Groundwater Aquifer Protection regulation has flaws that the Ag Commission communicated to the planning board. The planning board included language into the master plan to revisit this regulation in the future.
 - The on-farm labor housing problem was another discussed issue, and the planning board suggested that there might be room within the campground ordinance that could work for seasonal housing for temporary farm labor. For permanent farm labor, perhaps the auxiliary structure ordinance may address the need, but there are still some issues to be worked out.

Next meeting is TBD and will be at the call of the Chair.

Move to adjourn 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted

Daimon Meeh,
Secretary