

## Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes 06/06/2023

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

Members Absent: Josh Marshall, Nicole Glines

Guests: Andy Messenger, Julie Dewdney

- Chairman Mark Stevens determined there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 7:05
- Introductions were made to and from the guests that were present.
- The Commission took a moment to recognize George Glines for all his years of service and contributions to the Ag Commission. He will be greatly missed.
- Nicole Glines submitted a tentative letter of resignation. Mark will contact Nicole and see if she is willing to serve as an Alternate or would consider a temporary leave of absence.
- Discussion of the recent vacancies on the Commission with the George and Nicole Glines positions now vacant. Mark indicated that he had spoken with Ken Folsom and corrected the discrepancy in Daimon's term's expiration date.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting was made by Ben Davis and seconded by Jill McCullough. Unanimously approved.
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- Discussion concerning the possibility of the Ag Commission working cooperatively with the Canterbury Farmers Market on items of mutual interest.
  - Liaisons have been identified and they will communicate items of particular interest to each other. Jill McCullough will be the Ag Commission's rep to the Farmers Market. Julie Dewdney is serving as the Farmer's Market Liaison for this meeting, but Katie Archer was interested in serving the role of liaison from the Canterbury Farmers Market to the Ag Commission regularly.
  - Mark inquired if there was there some way the Ag Commission can support or help the Canterbury Farmer's Market? Julie responded that starting with just knowing what the Ag Commission does is a good start.
  - Updating the Ag. Comm's map of farms in town would be another great thing to do.
- Review of Mission Statement, job descriptions, duties, and responsibilities of officers.
  - Jill brought the old bylaws and will distribute them electronically for the members to review.
  - Also brought up the need to update the contact list for the Commission members.
- Updates from the Chair

- Selectmen have requested Mark, as the chairman, to attend a meeting in August that will be a meeting of all the Chairs of all the Commissions and Boards in the town. Mark asked the members if they have any input or concerns they'd like relayed back to the Selectboard at this meeting.
  - Mark met with Greg Meeh, Chair of the Planning Board, about the Ag Commission's concerns in the developing Master Plan, and the Planning Board has been very receptive. The most conversation was about the Groundwater Aquifer Protection Ordinance and he asked the Ag Commission for feedback.
  - Mark met with Kelly Short from the Conservation Commission to reconnect the two Commissions. They had a second meeting a few weeks later where they exchanged a lot of files and information and Kelly gave them an edited draft of their proposed contribution to the Master Plan. Kelly requested feedback from the Ag Commission. Mark will distribute this to all Ag Comm members for their input.
- Discussed the schedule of tentative articles and authors for the monthly Ag Comm news blurbs to be included into Canterbury Newsletter.
- Old business – none
- New Business -
    - Luke Mahoney mentioned an agricultural parade to Daimon. Daimon brought the idea to the Commission's attention to see if it is an idea that the Ag Commission could or should be directly involved. The sense is that the Ag Commission can say that they would be supportive of the idea but would not take a role in coordination. Mark said he would check with Rachael Baker and see if she is still organizing the 4th of July parade and if she is, we can pass that along to Luke. There may be a collaboration of a farm or tractor parade that could happen for next year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
    - Discussed Andy Messinger's interest in possibly serving as a member or an alternate on this Commission, and he had some additional questions which were discussed. Andy said he would at least be interested in coming to the next meeting.

Motion by Ben Davis to adjourn at 8:35, seconded by Jill. All in favor.