

Effingham Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes February, 22, 2012

Present: Tom Thompson, Deb Potter, AnnMarie Sargent, Bill Piekut, Barbara Thompson
Others Present, Jim Morris, Celine Bergeron, Brenda Perry

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

AnnMarie appointed Bill to fill Eve's position as a voting member.

Minutes:

Tom moved and Deb seconded to accept the minutes of December 28th as presented. The motion passed.

Lacking a quorum, there were no official minutes for the regular meeting for January 25th.

Old Business:

- Farmer's Market: Jim reported the progress of the Farmer's Market Steering Committee. It will be called Effingham Outdoor Market. Jim will be the market manager. Flyers and postcards asking for vendors are ready for distribution. AnnMarie has already delivered one to Tamworth and Tuftonboro. The rules and an application are ready and some will be delivered to Boyle's Market for them to distribute should anyone ask. Market day will be Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm from June 16th thru October 6th.
- Re: inactive members: Barbara read correspondence she received from Susan Slack explaining the Ag Comm is a land use board and subject to the State RSA's in terminating inactive members, which requires a public hearing. Barbara gave copies to everyone. In this vein, Eve Klotz sent a letter of resignation which was also read to the members. No action will be taken as her term expires this year.
- Susan also explained the procedure for people who would like to join the commission and those who would like to change their position within the board. A letter of intent sent to the commission is required in both cases. The commission will then present their recommendations to the BOS who have the final approval.
- Deb announced she would like to change her position and become an alternate.
- Carol's term expires this year and she expressed the desire to sign on as an alternate.

New Business:

- The new Town website is up and running.
- The State legislature is working on HB1402 which would ease restrictions on the making of jam, jelly and baked goods pertaining to home sales and farmer's markets. AnnMarie offered to draft a letter the members can support and send to our representative.
- AnnMarie and Barbara attended a meeting of Ag Commissions from around the state on 2.4.12 in Manchester. The main order of business was to determine if Ag Commissions

are interested in forming an Agricultural Commission of New Hampshire. The consensus was in the affirmative. This would give Ag Comm's a lobbying force in Concord.

- The State's Current Use Board will have their semi-annual hearing in April. Tom is willing to attend for the purpose of keeping tabs on the continuing efforts of some to end current use.
- 2012 Goals: After some discussion, the members arrived at 4 goals for the year:
 1. Sign regulations for the Town
 2. Inventory of farm land – Bill questioned whether this is really a viable project since it is based on conjecture. It was explained the original idea of the inventory was part of goal by the Ag Comm to develop self-sufficiency in the Town. The way the land was and has been used in the past can help determine future needs.
 3. Develop a voluntary resource list of Effingham residents who are actively in agriculture. This could be listed on the Town's Ag Comm page for reference by the Town.
 4. Discuss and work on a plan for allowing migrant farming in Effingham.

Bill moved and Deb seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by Barbara Thompson.

These minutes are considered a draft until approved and a regular meeting of the Agricultural Commission.