

Effingham Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes March 28, 2012

Present: AnnMarie Sargent, Tom Thompson, Deb Potter, Barbara Thompson

Absent: Bill Piekut

The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Minutes: Tom moved and AnnMarie seconded to accept the minutes of February 22nd as presented. The motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

- Library: Contact from Marilyn to follow up with any concerns the Ag Com might have re: early termination of a meeting held at the library. She was assured there were no lingering issues.
- Board of Selectmen: Notification that the Town's website is up and running. The site is new.effinghamnh.net.

Old Business

- Membership: The members reviewed the roster and discussed open positions. There are 2 openings on the board and 2 on the list of alternates. Discussion resulted in the decision to ask Bill and Barbara to resign their alternate status and submit letters of intent to become full members of the board. This will leave 4 openings in the alternates list. The board will ask the PB to warrant a reduction of the alternates by 3 in next year's election.
- Farmers Market: There has been a phone call from a potential vendor for the market. This person sells fudge, but has not yet asked for an application. Deb will set up a facebook page for the market. Following discussion, it was decided to add a box to the application for vendors to check if they would like to be listed as vendors at the market.
- Contact needs to be made to retired members for any paperwork they possess which should be put in the Ag Com files. Tom volunteered to make a copy of the BMPs from the UNH Ext for the files.
- Goals:
 - Mapping – Tom volunteered to talk with Gwen about getting a listing of current use properties in town for coding into the Ag Com's set of tax maps.
 - Resource list – Discussion resulted in the plan to query local farmers thru the FMSC facebook page and the Town website to see if they would like to be put on a voluntary list of active farmers in Effingham as a resource for their products. It was also suggested to have a signup sheet available at the farmers market.
 - Signage – to be discussed at a future meeting.

New business

Composting – Tom handed out some literature re: municipal composting in relationship to potential changes in the way things might be handled at the transfer station. This could be a possible income producer for the Town and this might be a venue for the Ag Com. More discussion is needed.

Other Business: Publications

- Deb showed the tabloid, "The Communicator" and everyone thought it would be good reference material. It will be filed.
- Deb also explained she has a Farm Bureau Card and a Grainger which offer discounts, in case anyone was interested in getting one.
- Tom passed out copies of UNH literature "Creating an Agricultural Commission" to everyone.

AnnMarie moved and Deb seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Minutes prepared by Barbara Thompson

These minutes are considered draft until approved at a regular meeting of the Agricultural Commission. Any corrections will be noted in the next meeting minutes.