

Effingham Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes April 25, 2012

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Minutes: AnnMarie moved and Tom seconded to accept the minutes of March 28th as presented. The motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

- BMP's: Tom gave the board a copy of the BMP's for Agriculture in NH for the files.
- Membership: After discussion the members decided to draft a warrant article for next year to reduce the number of alternates to 2. Also discussed was the idea of using the Effingham Agricultural Commission Facebook page, the Town website and newspaper articles to put the word out that the commission is looking for more members. The group did some brainstorming to come up with potential people to contact.
- Composting – It was suggested that the board look at the master plan regarding the transfer station for any way that town composting could work and be beneficial to the town.

Goals:

- Mapping – Tom got a list of current use from the Town office and distributed a copy to everyone. It will be a useful tool to help map agriculture in the town. Deb will bring in the large maps she got from Paul B. and look for an agricultural overlay.
- Resource list – Discussion reiterated 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. Deb has set up the Outdoor Market Facebook page and has asked Jim Morris if he would maintain the page. She also offered to help draft something to put on the page offering people an opportunity to sign up to be on a resource list.
- Signage – A lot of questions arouse around the issue of off-site signage for Effingham businesses. Who would build and maintain the signs? How would one participate? What kind of signs? Where? Bill suggested that more research be done and some kind of presentation be prepared for submission to the Planning Board.

New business: None

Other Business: Publications

- County Ag Fair Day – We need to contact Betty Lou Canty at the County Extension Office in Conway to find out the date for this year's fair. Also check to see if they list agricultural commissions and if there is a cost involved.

- NH Farm Bureau – We need to check on when there will be upcoming meetings and have someone attend.

Tom moved and Deb seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm..

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.*