

TOWN OF KINGSTON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 05/01/08

Those present: Christine Nava, Barry Mathias, Beth Corbett and Jean Landis Naumann,

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nava at 7:20 pm.

The minutes of the 3/19/08 meeting were approved as written.

Lydia Mathias was in attendance to discuss the August agricultural event.

Barry explained some of the issues of concern at the Kelleher property:

- Many bogs overgrown and unusable
- Water pipes and culverts clogged or washed out
- Usable equipment in pump houses has been stolen or should be removed and sold
- Pipes and other metals have been stolen
- Remaining metals should be removed and sold
- Connection at house site needs to be addressed
- Condition of barn is poor – recommend siding be removed to become open-sided pavilion
- Property requires more active management – suggestions:
 - Rent pavilion for events like family reunions or music festivals

SLRHS classes could grow revenue generating plants such as Christmas trees or ornamental grasses or dune grass

Rent out bogs to cranberry growers

Recreation department could sponsor events

- Conservation Commission needs to provide maps and publicity to encourage use
- Road leading into property needs to be maintained so all vehicles can traverse it
- Improve signage at entry and within property

Jean will prepare a memo to the Conservation Commission containing these concerns and ask if the AgCom could meet with the ConsCom to discuss this.

Barry will ask Rui if he has a contact at SLRHS and if he would contact them about these ideas.

The health agent sent a memo to the AgCom asking for assistance with an ongoing manure issue on Wapping Road. Various methods to remove the manure and minimize the odor were discussed. Beth will contact the farm owner to ask if Christine can meet with her to discuss the issue. Christine will then attend the 5/12/08 Board of Health meeting to respond to their memo.

The Agricultural event will be held 8/18 with a rain date on 8/19. Lydia has agreed to coordinate this event. Beth has a contact in Holliston who may be interested in selling goat cheese made from the milk of the goats Beth owns. Jean will handle publicity with PAC TV, radio and newspapers. Lydia will do a radio ad. Lydia will update the poster used last year and Christine and Beth will distribute them. Bill will be asked to invite Scott Soares and the new state Agricultural Commissioner.

Lydia will contact Kevin Donovan about using the Town Green and the Faunce School, and closing off Green Street for the event. She will also ask for contact information for the new owner of the Town House to see if we can use the parking lot for the food vendors. Various vendors were discussed and Lydia will contact them. Jean will inquire about a police detail (may need only 1 officer) and a possible visit to the event by the town K-9 officer. A formal request will be sent to the Selectmen about trust fund money to pay for the police detail. Jean will prepare the letters to the Green Street residents to advise them of the event.

Barry and Lydia will attend the 5/13 Selectmen's meeting to ask for their support of the event.

Jean explained the most recent information on the status of aquaculture in Kingston Bay.

.Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 5/15 at 7:00 PM in room 203.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann