

TOWN OF KINGSTON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 05/15/08

Those present: Christine Nava, Barry Mathias, Phil Burnham, Rui Santos and Jean Landis Naumann,

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nava at 7:10 pm.

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

Christine reported on her findings after visiting the Berryman home on Wapping Road in response to a request from the health agent. The stalls and paddock were clean and there was no large manure pile. The owner is gradually disposing of the manure which is retained in an open concrete pit at least 200 feet from the edge of the property and wetlands. There was no discernible odor from the manure. Christine reported her findings to Henny Walters, health agent, and Paul Armstrong, building inspector. Mrs. Berryman appears to be in compliance with all requests and is in the process of cleaning up the entire property. Paul asked for a written report which Christine has completed and submitted to Paul with copies to Henny, Mrs. Berryman and Mrs. Cole.

Christine reported on her attendance at the Board of Health meeting 5/12/08. Christine expected to discuss the Berryman property issues but instead was grilled on the language of the Right to Farm bylaw passed at the most recent Town Meeting. The Board of Health members explained that they have requested an opinion from the Attorney General on the bylaw.

Lydia reported that Kevin Donovan, town administrator, had contacted her to advise that the police detail for the August agricultural celebration is in place. Lydia will contact the new owner of the old Town House to seek permission to use the parking lot adjacent to the Town Green for this event. Connected the Band has agreed to provide free entertainment at the event.

Christine will try to arrange to have vendors with farm fresh eggs for the event and Rui will provide signage.

Lydia will send letters to last year's vendors to determine their interest in participating this year. Ray Russo has expressed interest in participating. A contact is being made with a 4-H rabbit group. Christine may have a contact for miniature donkeys or horses. She will contact the blueberry grower on Foster Lane to see if they are interested in participating.

Bill agreed to contact Scott Soares in the Agricultural Commissioner's office about he and the commissioner attending the event. Bill will also contact the SEMAP group about having an information table at the event. Bill will also contact the Sheehan Family Foundation about a possible animal exhibit by the Billingsgate Farm. Bill will have our event listed on the Agricultural Commission website.

It was suggested that we have a door prize composed of agricultural products.

Barry will contact the Highway Department and the Fire Department regarding their involvement in this event.

Rui will contact the FFA group at SLRHS about having an information table at the event.

Jean will contact PAC TV about advertising for vendors after notification from Lydia as well as asking if the video from last year's event can be shown just prior to this year's event.

Christine will contact the Kingston Reporter about doing interest stories leading up to the event like they did last year.

Lydia will contact a local honey vendor.

.Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 6/26 at 7:00 PM in room 203.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann