

TOWN OF KINGSTON  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 9/11/08

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nava at 7:05 pm.

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

The minutes of 7/17/08 were accepted although no formal vote could be taken because there was not quorum at the 7/17 meeting.

Christine reported on a telephone call she received from Henny Walters regarding the oxen owned by Bill O'Brien. Christine went to the farm and checked on conditions. There were 2 small piles of manure and no odor was detected until within a few feet of the piles. The yard was immaculate, the animals appeared to be well-cared-for and there was fresh food and water available to them. She reported this to Henny.

There was a discussion of the need for 1 new member. Christine will approach Jimmy Ruprecht, Barry will check with Brad to see if he can now attend meetings. There are a couple other prospects to be considered.

There was a review of the Agricultural Celebration on 8/18/08. Attendance was down slightly, vendors sales were down, the weather was great, the band was terrific, the food was tops. The effects of the economy were evident and the "newness" from last year was gone. However, those in attendance seemed to have a great time and the children loved all the animals. It was suggested that we work with Plympton and perhaps alternate the event each year to keep it fresh. We may want to emphasize that this is an "awareness" or "educational" event. It might work better on another night of the week or perhaps a Saturday. We may want to move the date to early September.

Lydia has asked that someone else head it up next year. She has sent thank you notes to all the vendors. Jean will obtain a contact in Plympton. Christine suggested we do a phone survey of the participating vendors this winter for their suggestions.

Barry reported on the discussion at the Conservation Land Review Committee about a community garden on the conservation land on 3A behind Kingston Block. Jean will research local community gardens and suggested that we have experienced gardeners available to help those just learning. Startup costs were discussed (tilling, fertilizing, fencing, etc).

Barry asked if we would support his suggestion to send a letter to the Town Administrator asking that a task force be assembled to review the earth removal bylaw. A vote was taken to send the letter asking that all pertinent departments and committees be represented in determining what is a fair bylaw. Jean suggested that we research earth removal bylaws in similar towns. Jean will draft the letter.

.Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for 10/23 at 7:00 PM...

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann