

Kingston Agricultural Commission
March 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Christine Nava at 7:15 PM

Those in attendance were Christine Nava, Barry Mathias, Phil Burnham, Karen Johnson, and Rui Santos. Members that were not present are Jean Landis Nauman, Brad Colton, and Bill Napolitano.

Motion was made by Rui Santos and seconded by Barry Mathias to accept the minutes from the January 27th meeting. Passed unanimously.

Earth Removal By Law: Rui updated us on the Earth Removal By Law committee meetings that he has attended. It appears that there are still many issues to discuss before the By Law will be ready for town meeting. Everyone is in agreement that some "tweaking" needs to be done to support the cranberry growers. Rui mentioned that the board is looking into requiring a bond for new bog development and a permit for cranberry growers to sand. This permit will be similar to a burning permit. There are many details still left to work out. The By Law will not be ready for town meeting in April. Rui believes that Bud Loring will take the empty spot on the By Law study board.

Community Garden Project: Barry reports that Gary Langenbach and the Conservation Committee have no problem with the garden, however, Gary feels that the land we wanted to use has lousy soil. He suggested another parcel of land off Prospect St. for the location of the garden. This spot would require the building of a bridge and some research to see if the land was paid for by the town or by the state. There could be some legalities involved. It was decided to table this project for now.

Agricultural Night: Barry will have Lydia get the vendor contact information to Christine so that she can send them a letter informing them of this year's date. We will need to start lining vendors and animals up.

Christine told the group about a phone call that she received from a woman inquiring about laws regulating animals. Her neighbor has goats and chickens on Smith's Lane and the woman does not like the odor. She also complained about rats and feels that they are coming from the goats next door. Christine explained that the people have the right to have the animals and that the Agricultural Commission is an educating and mediating group. Christine could go visit and check out the barn and offer suggestions if necessary to try to help mediate the situation. The woman said that she would handle it herself for now and if she needed help, she'd call Christine back.

Phil will check on Brad Colton's letter of resignation for the board.

Christine will contact everyone by email to schedule the next meeting.

Motion was made by Barry Mathias and seconded by Rui Santos to adjourn at 7:47 PM.
Passed unanimously.