

TOWN OF KINGSTON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 04/05/07

Those present: Christine Nava, Beth Corbett, Bill Napolitano, Brad Colton, Jean Landis Naumann, Barry Mathias

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by Chairman Nava.

Minutes of 10/26/06, 12/14/06, 1/18/07, 2/7/07, 3/8/07 and 3/22/07 accepted. Jean will turn these in to the Town Clerk.

Christine explained that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss the 3 Annual Town Meeting warrant articles (15, 33, 45, 46) that impact the Kingston agricultural community.

There was discussion on how to notify interested individuals to be present at Town Meeting for discussion of these articles.

The commissioners voted unanimously to support article 15 on 40R rezoning. This will help preserve the land used for agricultural purposes by providing a concentrated housing area.

On article 33 regarding earth removal, the commissioners voted unanimously to ask the Water Department to table their amendment until we have a chance to complete our agricultural survey and compare known agricultural areas to the water overlay district boundaries so we can determine the impact, if any, on agricultural enterprises. Many farmers already operate under farm conservation plans.

The commissioners voted unanimously to move to table articles 45 and 46 until a Right to Farm bylaw is enacted that would help with the definition of animal units and allow us to tailor our zoning to be in compliance with existing state regulations and zoning. We wish to include the Health Agent and the Animal Control Officer in drafting this bylaw.

Barry told the group that he has met with Kevin Donovan, Town Administrator, about our proposed Kingston Agricultural Celebration Day. Barry believes the best spot for this would be the Town Green and Kevin has offered to open the Faunce School to use the kitchen facilities and the rest rooms. Christine suggested that the horse drawn wagon rides could go through the cemetery. Barry and Brad will approach the local banks to solicit donations to help defray the costs of signs, advertising and police details.

Barry's wife Lydia has agreed to assist in organizing this event as she has extensive experience in this area..

There was discussion of using Gray's Beach for a future farmers' market because of the scenic location, and availability of rest rooms and the concession stand. There are 58 parking spaces available.

Jean suggested that we advertise an open meeting for all residents who are interested in participating in putting on the agriculture celebration day. Jean will reserve the large meeting room. Bill will have his wife contact the Kingston Reporter to assist in advertising the meeting. Members agreed that FFA and 4-H should also be invited as well as members of the Garden Club.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5/10 at 7:00 PM in the large meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann

Bill mentioned that one of the new state officers for FFA is a Kingston resident. The group decided to ask the Town Moderator for permission to present a certificate of recognition to this individual at Town Meeting. Bill will get details and can help in preparing the certificate.

Rui spoke on the topic of the use of salt on the roads by the Highway Department. He discussed this with Pine Dubois and she is pursuing water samples to determine the level of salinity. The question of whether there are designated "No Salt" zones needs to be answered. Jean will follow up with the Town Administrator on his discussions with the Highway Department Director. Barry reported that he has people looking into a section of his bogs where the vines are dying.

Jean will obtain the final wording on the 3 warrant articles that address agriculture and the commission will meet on 4/5 at 7:00 PM to discuss and vote on these article.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann