

TOWN OF KINGSTON  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 12/14/06

Those present: Christine Nava, Brad Colton, Barry Mathias, Jean Landis Naumann

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Nava...

Christine asked Jean if she had obtained information on zoning bylaw changes. Jean reported that she will check other town websites for this information.

There was a general discussion of how the animal control officer and building inspector become aware of farming operations within the town, especially for yearly inspections. Jean offered to research this. The group discussed the possibility of providing a fact sheet/list of recommendations to those with new farm animals (how to care for animals, how to address neighbor concerns, etc.). The members expressed a desire to be the initial responders to farm animal complaints. Perhaps a neutral group such as this could mediate and suggest remedies before it became an official town action. Jean offered to contact the appropriate departments to present this idea.

The members also discussed the possibility of offering forums on farm animal care.

The members discussed the town earth removal bylaw and how it impacts cranberry growers in particular. Bylaw amendment language was discussed and Jean will contact the appropriate town departments for advice and guidance.

Barry volunteered to serve on the Conservation Land Review Committee. Jean will check with the Town Clerk's office on the actions needed to place him on this committee.

The group discussed the possibility of having the third associate member come from the Silver Lake Regional High School FFA group. Brad volunteered to contact the FFA coordinator to discuss this.

Jean proposed that we meet with officers of the Kingston Garden Club to discuss mutual interests and projects and offered to contact the current president. We will try to arrange this meeting in January or February.

The group decided to submit the Right to Farm Bylaw as a warrant article for the annual town meeting.

The group discussed the possibility of organizing a farmers' market in town next summer. Different locations, vendors and arrangements were discussed. Jean

volunteered to contact the school superintendent to determine if it would be possible to use the elementary school property.

Christine stated that she had a possible new member and Brad will contact Elizabeth Corbett to see if she will be able to attend any meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1/18/07 at 7:30 PM. Jean will call to make the room arrangements and posting of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.