

TOWN OF KINGSTON  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 09/12/07

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

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

Lydia Mathias was also present to discuss the August Kingston Agricultural Celebration.

Motion approved to approve minutes of 6/28/07 and 7/19/07 meetings.

Christine led a discussion to recap the August Agricultural Celebration event. All agreed that this was a worthwhile event that brought a good crowd. Members have received positive feedback from attendees and requests that it be repeated. The application and poster format can be used for future events. Lydia reported that she has sent thank you notes to Dr. Russo and Scott Soares, the Acting Agricultural Commissioner, the Highway department and Peter Eldridge for his band's participation. Phil reports there was some confusion about where people could park.

It was suggested that additional thank you letters go to the Selectmen, Billy O'Brien and Marnie. Lydia will do these letters. Phil pointed out that there was a considerable amount of work in setting up and taking down tables and chairs.

Jean will check to see if the police department sent the bill to the selectmen's office and how to get power turned on for the gazebo.

There was general agreement that if we have this event on the Green again, we should clean up the large pinecones so no one will trip on them.

The number and type of vendors seemed to be just right for this event. We hope that FFA will be able to participate in the future.

Jean reported that the Town Treasurer has discovered a Frederick Adams Lecture trust fund that would provide funds for agricultural education events.

The next project the commission wishes to undertake is preparing a Right to Farm by-law to be presented at the spring Annual Town Meeting. The deadline to submit this warrant article is in early January. Christine will contact Bill Napolitano to determine if he has a draft ready for discussion at the next meeting.

Jean will include the list of members and membership dates as well as the criteria for membership with the next minutes.

Christine asked that all members try to attend the meetings so that we have the benefit of the members' expertise. Christine will check with Beth and Brad to determine their availability for meetings. Members are asked to let the chairman know ahead of time if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Rui asked that the commission continue to pursue the issue of the amount of salt and other chemicals that are used on the roads during the winter. The Mathias' reported that they lost a bog due to road runoff. It was agreed that the members need to do their homework and have studies and data to support our position before we approach the Highway Department foreman on this topic. Barry will obtain the UMass study documents for their destroyed bog.

Barry asked where we are on getting an inventory of the large animals in town. Can this be included on the Town Census mailed to all homes by the Town Clerk?

Christine asked to have the animal control officer and the Police Chief meet with us to review the barn inspection schedule and the results of the reviews. Barry is interested in how farms manage their manure. Are owners of dogs and cats required to have a license before the animals are given rabies shots?

Jean suggested that we research the State regulations – what are the requirements and who regulates? Christine agreed to contact Mike Cahill to determine what information is considered public and available to us.

Next meeting scheduled for 10/16 at 7:00 PM.

.Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann