

**Town of Chester  
Agricultural Commission  
Approved Minutes  
May 22, 2018**

**Attendance**

*Members Present:*

Chuck Myette, Treasurer  
Cindy LeBlanc  
Tiffany Coroka, Chair  
Steph Landau, Selectman Liaison

*Absent:*

Jeff Geary

*Others Present*

Gary Van Geyte

**Call to Order**

Chair Coroka called the meeting of the Chester Agricultural Commission to order at 7:05 pm on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

**Old Business**

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes**

March 27, 2018: Mr. Myette motioned to approve the minutes, as written. Mrs. LeBlanc seconded his motion, with all in favor, so moved.

**Daffodils**

Mr. Van Geyte reported that the daffodils originally intended for Edwards Mill Dam were not planted due to the construction and they could be planted at Spring Hill Farm.

**Food Scaping Class**

Mrs. LeBlanc will be conducted a Foodscaping Class at Spring Hill Farm on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10-12. Chair Coroka stated that she has posted it.

Mr. Myette asked if there were going to be any informational handouts and Mrs. LeBlanc stated that there would. Chair Coroka would like to have an opportunity at the class to get contact information for volunteers and people willing to donate.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she would be going over this weekend to do some edging and to look at the location for the ramp and that she would like to move the ornamental plow handles across the street and landscape around those. Mr. Van Geyte stated that they will not be using perennials. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that they will get plants this weekend and suggested removing the raspberries. Mrs. LeBlanc will remove the old bird feeder that has bees in it, and plant ornamental hot peppers and pole beans going up the existing feeder pole. Chair Coroka asked if anything would be happening indoors and she answered that it would be happening outside. Mrs. LeBlanc would like to take a series of photos as the plants mature and do a poster at the Agriculture table at Town Fair to show their progress. Mr. Myette asked about irrigation for watering and Mrs. LeBlanc pointed out that the house was right there. Mr. Van Geyte suggested a soaker hose or checking to see if the old system is there.

Mr. Myette provided contact information for Mr. LeBlanc.

Chair Coroka asked about reaching out to members of the Rockingham Herb Society whose plant sale was on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Myette suggested contacting Jackie Brown.

### **Additional Classes**

Chair Coroka stated that she would like to see how the Foodscaping class goes and perhaps offer another in July or August. A Fall planting class was also suggested. Chair Coroka advised that UNH had been doing something with growing Saffron although it was somewhat labor intensive.

### **New Business**

### **Liaisons**

Selectman Landau indicated that he would be the Commission's Liaison and Mr. Myette advised that a list was out of which Selectmen were Liaisons for each group. Selectman Buckley will continue to be the liaison for the Spring Hill Farm and Advisory Committee.

### **Brochure Map – Local Farms**

Chair Coroka indicated that she would like to work on the brochures as there are still some farms that are not listed. Chair Coroka indicated that while the term "agriculture" can be intimidating she wanted the community to become more involved and realize that the Commission was involved in other aspects including small farms, gardening and landscaping.

### **Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee**

Mr. Van Geyte asked about whether the compost he had begun was still there and asked about the irrigation system.

Chair Coroka advised that the rental for the high tunnel had fallen through because of the insurance requirement.

Selectman Landau asked about the equipment for haying at Spring Hill Farm and wondered if they could hire someone to do it using the equipment they had. Mr. Myette reminded that the equipment belonged to the Trust. Selectman Landau advised that it would be better to pay someone for the few days' work it would take to hay the fields and have enough bales on hand to feed the cow.

## **Town Fair**

Chair Coroka advised that where the Commission will not be bringing any animals this year it would be good to come up with some other ideas for their table. Some ideas that were suggested included a Bounty Basket raffle with items donated from local farms and businesses and a video presentation that could be on a monitor at the table. Mr. Geary may have some soap, horse-shoe art and other items he would be willing to donate if someone could reach out to him and someone could reach out to Knitters Garden who shears her sheep and sends it out to have the wool spun.

Chair Coroka asked if they would still want to do the Ugly Chicken contest and indicated that just because the Commission wasn't bringing any animals it didn't mean that other people couldn't.

Mr. Van Geyte stated that he thinks the tent and tables were returned to the town and are in storage and will try to put his hands on some raffle tickets. Chair Coroka would like to get their table situated near the Historic Society table. Spring Hill Farm is the theme this year. "It's the rebirth of the farm for us."

Chair Coroka asked about the old manuscript of Miss Church's life story and both Mr. Van Geyte and Mr. Myette have it on pdf and could get it to a printer. The author gave his consent provided proceeds were shared and Mr. Sweet is working on one that may be released for a future year. There is also an old video that PACT has that could be run.

## **Garden Club**

Chair Coroka indicated that she was interested in starting a Garden Club in Chester and had recently taken some Master Gardener's classes herself that ended before the certification process. Mr. Myette advised that Baron Richardson was a Master Gardener and gave her his contact info. Chair Coroka indicated that she looked into the process briefly and that a needs assessment with the Federal of Garden Clubs is one of the first steps.

## **Farmers Market**

Chair Coroka asked if Raymond had a Farmers Market. Mrs. LeBlanc will reach out to Mrs. Ferrante who started the Derry one.

Chair Coroka asked about doing the Farmers Market at the barn at Wason Pond. Mr. Myette stated that the barn roof had been done and the siding was almost finished. The interior would need some cleaning up but that was the original intention.

### **Next Meeting**

Chair Coroka suggested since the Commission usually meets every other month that having another meeting in June or July might be helpful.

Mr. Myette advised about the budget cycle and suggested if there was something they wanted to do, like the brochures it would be good to order those and have them paid off before the new fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> as they still had some funds left in the budget. Chair Coroka asked about needing to meet to vote on the expense and Mr. Myette advised that if it's under a certain amount, no and that other things can be conducted by email.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Myette motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. LeBlanc seconded his motion. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,  
Recording Secretary