

**Town of Chester
Agricultural Commission
Approved Minutes
September 26, 2017**

Attendance

Members Present:

Gary Van Geyte, Chairman
Steve Boeske
Jodi Boeske
Cindy LeBlanc

Absent:

Richard Trask, Selectman Liaison
Chuck Myette, Treasurer
Jeff Geary

Members of the Public Present at Various Times:

Tiffany Coroka
Nancy Hoiyer, Asst. Minute Taker

Call to Order

Chairman Van Geyte called the meeting of the Chester Agricultural Commission to order at 7:06 pm on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

Old Business

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

July 25, 2017: Chairman Van Geyte motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. LeBlanc seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved.

Treasurer's Report (Chuck) - Tabled

Town Fair Report

Ms. LeBlanc stated that next year the commission needs to have full commission participation, with everyone on the board. Ms. LeBlanc raised the issue that it was only one day out of the year. People were interested in the animals, no brochures were handed out, all members were too busy.

Animals/Cow/Location/Gates

Mr. Boeske stated that they honestly need help, the public was worse with the animals this year. Someone was throwing a cheeseburger to the cow. Mr. Boeske stated that there were six to ten dogs near the animals. The goat could have head-butted one of those dogs and then who'd be responsible? A kid tried to pet the cow during the walk.

Mr. Boeske stated that he had to walk the cow for an hour. He had no help loading the panels. Mrs. Boeske stated that it took 6 people to load her in trailer. Ms. LeBlanc recommended bringing the trailer over next year. Mr. Boeske stated that he could bring a dump truck and load panels in that for one trip and it would also be used to block people from crossing the yellow tape, which obviously means nothing.

Chairman Van Geyte asked Mr. and Mrs. Boeske about compensation for the cow. **Mrs. LeBlanc motioned to reimburse Mr. and Mrs. Boeske \$100.00 for the cost to bring the cow. Chairman Van Geyte seconded her motion, all in favor, so moved.**

Chairman Van Geyte stated that they did not do well with Cow Plop Bingo this year. Ms. Coroka stated that it was because the location was bad, there was no view, people didn't know it was happening. Ms. LeBlanc stated that they were supposed to have the corner spot. We asked that guns and ammo not be near the animals. There was no caller/announcer and you couldn't hear anything in that corner. Mr. Boeske stated that they need to sit with the RC coordinator.

People/Volunteers/Board

Ms. LeBlanc stated that we can't do everything at the same time. It would be a good idea for Selectman Trask to participate and help out and be good for his reputation.” Ms. LeBlanc felt it was an obligation, as a member, to participate. Mr. Boeske mentioned that Mr. Geary was not here for 14 months at one point. Ms. LeBlanc mentioned that Spring Hill Farm voted Tom Edwards off for absence. Mrs. Boeske stated that Pat (Martin) did a lot in past years and she hoped Deb would be back next year. Chairman Van Geyte said discussion with board for full participation. Mr. Boeske stated that he saw Mr. Myette walking around with his wife. Mr. Van Geyte said maybe it was a perfect time to set boundaries.

Mr. Boeske had to go to the police department and fire department to unlock the gate, there was no one there. The other gate was supposed to be open too. He found a police officer and he expected him to have a key to the gate. Someone should have a key to the gates for emergencies. The fire chief knew about the plans for the cow. Mrs. Boeske stated that everything else was smooth. Mr. Boeske stated that he will get the lieutenant's number so it doesn't happen again.

Chairman Van Geyte stated that we need signage. Mrs. Boeske stated that someone needs to watch because people pass the boundaries. Ms. LeBlanc added that even the banner didn't get attention. Mr. Boeske added because the tent was in the way. Mrs. Boeske said we need a sign for cow plop bingo and the ugly chicken contest. The cow plop bingo sign should have artwork. Ms. LeBlanc suggested an inexpensive sign that you could roll up for easy storage. Mr. Boeske suggested a sign showing how to tell the difference between a llama and an alpaca. Chairman Van Geyte stated that we should order the signs now because we have money now. The signs would be for the ugly chicken contest, cow plop bingo, directions, no pet signs, and do not feed animals signs.

Appointments

Mrs. LeBlanc motioned to accept Tiffany Coroka as a member of the Agricultural Commission. Mr. Boeske seconded her motion, all in favor, so moved.

Chairman Van Geyte advised Ms. Coroka to be sworn in on October 5th and told the other members to come to the BOS meeting to confirm their appointments and terms, which are:

Chairman Van Geyte appointed 8/25/11 – no term date
Vice Chair Myette – appointed 10/5/17 – term expires October 4, 2018
Mr. Geary – appointed 8/25/11 – no term date
Mr. Boeske – appointed 4/17/14 – no term date
Mrs. Boeske (alternate) – appointed 1/21/16 – no term date
Ms. Coroka (alternate) – appointed 10/4/17 – no term date
Vacancy (alternate)
Selectman Trask - Liaison

Mr. Boeske stated that him and Mrs. Boeske were just sworn in two months ago and wondered if they needed another swearing in. Chairman Van Geyte advised that they shouldn't all be sworn in on the same date, so that all terms won't expire at the same time and will send everyone an email when their term is up.

Chairman Van Geyte stated that he will add Ms. Coroka as an admin to the web-page.

Ms. LeBlanc departed the meeting briefly at 7:42 pm and returned at 7:45 pm.

Chairman Van Geyte urged everyone to attend the selectman's meeting, except Ms. LeBlanc who got sworn in last year. The BOS Meeting is 10/5 at 7:00 pm. Chairman Van Geyte instructed Ms. Coroka to see Erin Newnan the Town Clerk. Chairman Van Geyte advised that the length of terms should be different so we don't all disappear at once.

Classes and video

Chairman Van Geyte classes and video, could put something educational on *YouTube*. Ms. Coroka asked what components were you thinking of? Winter pruning of fruit trees, Reading the Forested Landscape, Soap making.

Mrs. Boeske didn't hear back for class with insurance. Mr. Boeske asked why they needed insurance. Ms. LeBlanc stated that anything having to do with the town needed insurance liability.

Chairman Van Geyte suggested tractor maintenance video. Mr. Boeske asked whose tractor should we used. Spring Hill Farm was suggested.

Chairman Van Geyte said pruning fruit trees would be helpful and everyone agreed. Ms. LeBlanc said that Spring Hill Farm trees need to be pruned. Chairman Van Geyte asked how many of them. Ms. LeBlanc responded seven and a half. "One pear tree really needs it." "The Trust controls the property

so the town can't say no.” Chairman Van Geyte suggested using Hazelton’s as an example of what it should look like.

Ms. LeBlanc suggested a PowerPoint presentation about Foodscaping on Facebook.

Mrs. Boeske suggested Yarn n More give spinning (fiber) classes.

Ms. LeBlanc asked about maple syrup class, perhaps by Folsom’s. Chairman Van Geyte suggested Ryan Neal who is doing some tapping. Ms. Coroka suggested a segment on identifying maple trees.

Ms. Coroka proposed a fire cider segment. Chairman Van Geyte asked if she could make a five to ten minute segment on that and have video guy edit and put it together. Mrs. Boeske said that would be good before flu season, clear your sinuses. Ms. Coroka suggested that the month of October works well. Ms. Coroka added a beginner's backyard composting class might be good.

Ms. Coroka has a friend who is a bee keeper, could do a class on mason bees and making their habitats. For \$15, leave with your own bee house. Chairman Van Geyte asked if there was anyone to help with the video.

Chairman Van Geyte stated that they had done a segment, on the web-page, about planting the daffodils last Thursday, waiting until the dirt is 60' or less.

Adjournment

Chairman Van Geyte motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. LeBlanc seconded his motion, all in favor, so moved. The meeting of the Chester Agricultural Commission was adjourned at 8:19 pm on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer,
Recording Secretary

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission will be on November 28, 2017.