

1 Town of Chester
2 Agricultural Commission
3 Tuesday, March 22, 2016
4 Meeting Room
5 Approved Minutes
6

7 **1. Preliminaries**

8 Members Present

9 Gary Van Geyte, Chair

10 Patrick Connelly

11 Chuck Myette, Vice Chair

12 Steve Boeske

13 Jodi Boeske

14 Members absent:

15 Jeff Geary

16 Stephen Landau, Selectman Liason (ex-officio)

17 Cindy LeBlanc

18 Members of the Public present:

19 None
20

21 **1.1 Call to Order**
22

23 Chairman, Van Geyte, called this meeting of the Town of Chester Agricultural Commission to
24 order at 7:07 PM.
25

26 **II. Old Business**

27 **2.1 Approval of Minutes**

28 January 26, 2016: Patrick Connelly motioned to approve the minutes, as written, Chuck Myette
29 seconded the motion; voted 5 in favor; so moved.

2.2 Treasurer's Report

The Agricultural Commission has \$650.00 in its budget. Chuck Myette stated that he didn't believe anything had been spent.

Patrick Connelly motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; Steve Boeske seconded the motion; 5 in favor; so moved.

Soap Class for the Town

Jodi Boeske stated that if we need someone, Juliette is willing to do the 17th. Van Geyte asked if she will call and Jodi Boeske said that she would.

Patrick Connelly asked how to get the word out besides Facebook and Front Porch? Van Geyte asked about donating a week or two of ad box, have to be in by middle of month, two weeks beforehand, so would need to know the Monday – two weeks before the class. Patrick Connelly suggested use of the big sign in town center, that Pat would need a submission. Chuck Myette asked if they still had anything on the cable channel. Patrick Connelly asked about the Tri-Town Times and Steve Boeske said its not the way it used to be. Patrick Connelly suggested the Derry News, if send him the details. Van Geyte asked how many people, the publicity we had for the jam, determined to be about a dozen easily anticipated. Van Geyte asked for photographs and stated that Pat got back today and may have some. Jodi Boeske asked whether to send any photographs to Pat or Van Geyte and Van Geyte suggested sending them to him.

Facebook Page

Jodi Boeske asked if there was a link for the Facebook page on the Chester website. Van Geyte said just our regular email, which is Chesterag@gsinet.net.

Van Geyte was asked about linking to Front Porch.

Badges

Steve Boeske asked about whether any members had got their badges yet and what kind they would be. Jodi Boeske asked if they clip or pin on? None of the members have had a chance to go to the police station and get their badges as of this date.

III. New Business:

The question was raised of what to do with the Cow Plop income of \$181.00 which acting treasurer, Van Geyte stated is still sitting around, not yet rolled into the general fund; and wondering what monies were promised, if any, to the library and how to best make use of that donation and how much to reimburse Bob Pepper for bringing the cow or Gregsak for doing the grid., Due to the cost of trailering, etc.it was agreed that Bob Pepper would be reimbursed \$100 for costs associated with bringing the cow and \$80.00 would be donated to the library, potentially as a non-cash donation, something that could be lent out to the town for use or education in gardening. A rototiller was proposed by Jodi Boeske, Van Geyte suggested a

66 manure spreader, Steve Boeske suggested a watering can or prizes. Jodi Boeske asked about if
67 item comes back damaged? Steve Boeske stated that's the sad part of it, insurance and such..
68 Books related to gardening were proposed by Connelly, Myette suggested possibly about raising
69 chickens.

70 T-Shirts

71 Van Geyte estimated the cost of t-shirts to be \$15 each and it was discussed where from the
72 existing budget monies could be allocated for t-shirts. Steve Boeske suggested light gray so we
73 don't get too hot, with Chester AG on the back; Van Geyte suggested light green.

74 Fiscal 2017 and 2018 Budget

75 Discussion was raised by Van Geyte as to revisions to the Fiscal 2017 and 2018 budget, with
76 rewording only revisions to "categories" be submitted to the Fiscal 2017 budget and line item
77 and cost revisions to the Fiscal 2018 budget. After consideration of the Town picking up
78 administrative costs and postage not being used, proposed revisions to the Fiscal 2018 budget
79 which he believes is \$1,050.00 should be revised to include printing and miscellaneous. Van
80 Geyte will sit down and make these changes for 2018. Myette stated that you can try putting it in
81 for Fiscal 2017 and Steve Boeske added that so long as the bottom line doesn't change. Van
82 Geyte stated he will see what he can do and will discuss the compensation for the cow at a later
83 date, Myette suggested use of the miscellaneous category for that.

84 Van Geyte suggested that we could pay for the town fair out of what we generate with the 50/50
85 Raffle and that we need to resupply brochures out of this money, they are running low.

86 Myette added that have to have certain categories but so long as you identify with a footnote
87 under miscellaneous.

88 Jodi Boeske added that classes are usually \$50.00.

89 Solar Panels on Farms

90 Patrick Connelly was contacted by a group looking to put solar panels on farms, looking for site
91 for that. Chuck Myette stated that Spring Hill Farm was out because of easement. Van Geyte
92 asked about the old school....Patrick Connelly stated that he mentioned that to them, the part
93 closer to North Pond is cleared. Chuck Myette stated the the trouble is they're trying to look into
94 a true CSA and asked what we had left in town for CSA. Patrick Connelly stated that looking for
95 a site regionally. Chuck Myette asked about 5-10 acres? Patrick Connelly stated that he didn't
96 think they'd need that much. Chuck Myette asked about 5-7 then? Patrick Connelly stated that
97 he believed there was another group that used less than 4. Boeske asked where does the power
98 go? Myette stated that it goes to the nearest electric poles. Myette stated that looking at that
99 parcel in North Chester on Lane because it abuts the power lines that are not being utilized other
100 than woodland. Patrick Connelly asked Myette if they have to tap into main power lines and
101 Myette said no.

102

103 Composting Activity

Patrick Connelly raised the report of an unpermitted composting operation occurring on the Chester Sandown line, property owned by Drowns, near or within Mill Pine Village subdivision. Chuck Myette stated that was near open space conservation with a buffer to the Exter River, they're coming to get it permitted, after the fact. Patrick Connelly asked who was conducting the operation, business or individuals if its in a subdivision, a private land owner? Myette stated that it may be adjacent. Van Geyte asked how big it was. Myette responded that it showed up on aerial, so fairly large with trucks coming in and out and concerned demo material may be being brought in, isn't legal. Myette stated that it could be chipped and mixed in, where it was brought to our attention it is being conducted at least in part, in Chester. Connelly stated not exactly agricultural then. Myette stated it could be, landscaping material, but nobody knows the quality, Van Geyte added, it could be stumps, Myette added it could contain slurry. Steve Boeske stated it could be human sludge, not the right kind for composting. Van Geyte noted that UNH has a thing from cafeteria food. Myette added that Remillard has one here in town behind the Transfer Station.

Gardening Plots

Myette raised that Spring Hill Trustees were asked about gardening plots. Van Geyte asked if anyone called Virginia to find out more information, we've opened up community gardens in the past with no takers because almost everyone in town has enough land to do it themselves, but believes this is the condos from the Villages, but questioned didn't they have plots available prior and what happened with that and that she did not attend the meeting. Jodi Boeske reported on the conditions and requirements for maintaining the "organic" certifications at Spring Hill Farm and Steve Boeske raised concerns about how quickly those certifications can be lost or even fined if someone brings in a "dirty plant." Boeske stated that the cost to recertify is \$300.00 and Jodi Boeske reported on how accurate all records must be kept with a diary for everything. Steve Boeske added that you even have to indicate how plants were lost, and their numbers, he had to take pictures of plants that had been frost bitten.

IV. Adjournment

Patrick Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Myette seconded the motion. The meeting of the Town of Chester Agricultural Commission was adjourned at 8:04 PM on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer