

1 Town of Chester

2 Agricultural Commission

3 May 24, 2016

4 Meeting Room

5 Approved Minutes

6 I. **Preliminaries**

7 Members Present

8 Gary Van Geyte, Chair

9 Jodi Boeske

10 Steve Boeske

11 Cindy LeBlanc

12 Jeff Geary

13 Members Absent

14 Chuck Myette, Vice Chair

15 I.1 **Call to Order**

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17 Chairman Van Geyte called the meeting of the Town of Chester Agricultural  
18 Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

19  
20 II. **Old Business**

21  
22 II.1 **Approval of Minutes**

23 March 22, 2016: Steve Boeske motioned to accept the minutes as written, Jodi Boeske seconded  
24 the motion; all in favor with Jeff Geary abstaining due to absence from that meeting; so moved.

25 II.2 **Treasurer's Report**

26 The Agricultural Commission has \$650.00 in its budget. Chuck Myette not here. Gary Van  
27 Geyte reported: Finance says ok to appropriate funds next year and remainder of this year, the  
28 way its currently structured, we should be fine. Jeff Geary asked is that a rotating budget? Van  
29 Geyte responded this July 1,000, what did we budget last year? We had \$650.00 left from \$1,000  
30 last year, talking about getting t-shirts for fair (last month).

31

32

33 T-Shirts

34 Discussed getting t-shirts for the fair, to be identifiable. Jeff Geary asked any thoughts about the  
35 commercialization for that to sell them? Van Geyte replied didn't discuss. Jodi Boeske said we  
36 could have all farms in local area on map if we were going to sell them. Van Geyte added  
37 getting everyone's size tonight, bunch of larges, and order them. Van Geyte added have to order  
38 reprints on brochures, Steve still has copies of them, the brochures, Van Geyte asked how many?  
39 Jodi added not significant. Steve added, have to count. Jeff Geary asked are you saying you still  
40 have some? My retail location goes through those like mud season in NH, Van Geyte added, so  
41 does Hazelton, folks come thru that have never been to the farm. Van Geyte asked do you know  
42 anything particular to improve reprint? Jeff added hours of operation, four folks have come to  
43 me in the surrounding areas, none in Chester, daughter-in-law lives in Chester right on Sandown  
44 line and her Mom and Dad came out from CA or somewhere and asked what the heck is there to  
45 do in Chester....pick up at post office or town hall or library and looking at it big into  
46 agriculture, lived in retirement community in CA, didn't necessarily want to visit agriculture but  
47 wanted something to do, she is an insurance salesman had been to farm several times, see how  
48 things were, that only thing to do in Chester is go see the goat farm, she knows that we're always  
49 open, hours of operation, some farms out there that want nothing to do with public, eggs for sale,  
50 come gets eggs see ya later, bye but there are some of us that encourage that and being on 121  
51 having a good ole flag hanging out there, well if the sun is risen and sun set still here....folks  
52 don't know what milking and dairy operation is all about, can't quantify what the work entails in  
53 their mind so I think if there were any change and this is going to be hard to do before reprinting,  
54 reach out and say what are your hours of operation and can folks stop by? Steve added, folks  
55 wonder. Van Geyte added only 25-30 on there, will give a quick reach out Jeff added back 40  
56 completely out of regulation 6' of signage, one sign post with seven and the open flag, he is off  
57 the beaten track. LeBlanc added Patrick's leaving, hey open come see us, hey isn't that cool.  
58 Van Geyte stated someone operating the farm and Jen is going to operate the yoga center out of  
59 there, interesting bunch of stuff. Van Geyte asked any ideas for graphic changes, photos to  
60 swap? Jeff replied that's "Willis" on the front, any flyers handy? Jeff said graphic-wise, take  
61 Patrick's name off and if you keep changing numbers, better to go to website then. Jeff asked  
62 whose tomatoes are those? Jodi replied Millcreek dairy sending a lot of people your way, some  
63 guy was supposed to come for compost last week, lives two houses up from Chester General,  
64 two customers came last week for compost. Jeff Geary added would love to have a cow on  
65 there, not sure about sheep in town, something about turkeys, livestock that we're trying to grow  
66 right, beef, goat, goat milk, cow, cow milk, alpaca for fiber, Steph was the only..yarn lady has  
67 sheep out back. Jeff added I don't mind Willis on front and/or vegetables and canning but a  
68 brochure of Chester Agriculture should be relatively encompassing of what we're doing, pigs  
69 too. Jodi added maple syrup, Folsoms added Jeff. Jodi asked can we put animals on map? Jeff  
70 added if there is a farm representing that is conducive to such, as far as I know we're the only  
71 dairy in town, Patrick is milking but he isn't a licensed dairy and Bob's milking but he's not a  
72 licensed dairy, not that I want to stand out,, should be specified that each critter should be. Steve

73 added if you have goats, syrup, pork chops or something. Van Geyte expressed concerns about it  
74 becoming too cluttered to list everyone's products, Steve added, a picture Van Geyte stated  
75 could drive to website and the town site has the details. Jeff asked if there is room on brochure  
76 for farms to put their websites and/or facebook pages on there, had one woman from Boston  
77 come into my store. Van Geyte stated my idea is this blank space, colored dots, yellow, red,  
78 green, each animal represented or service. Steve agreed that would be simple. Cindy added  
79 farm that does honey? Jeff replied Sunrise or Sunshine between my corner and Brians, 80  
80 Candia, bees, honey, asked Steve hasn't heard the buzz on that...Cindy stated that her son uses  
81 local honey for his allergies. Jeff added that he sells local honey from Epping. Karen and Jeff  
82 have been very nice about that but I'd like to have more local honey. Cindy added if there is  
83 more local, I'd like to find out. Jeff said he just friend requested me the other day, have to search  
84 them out says Cindy. Jeff added that we send each other business and what I'd like to see with  
85 Chester Agriculture is helping to push stuff through to help rise, want Chester to become, want  
86 preserve woods, open spaces, tight knit community without amenities going through the roof.

87 Back to t-shirts, color, and sizes, ordering eight. Jodi said medium or large, Steve said 2x cos  
88 they shrink, Jeff asked if all cotton, Van Geyte replied that he imagined. Van Geyte said  
89 medium larges. Jeff asked where? Van Geyte said Leftys in Derry. What kind of lettering are  
90 we putting on them?

91 Van Geyte said great to put all the farms, Chester Agriculture Commission Staff, Town Logo on  
92 Front and our facebook page. Jeff asked if he had the artwork. Van Geyte said he didn't have  
93 the town logo, Pat will get it for me, everything else is just stock print, standard lettering. Steve  
94 did fair, folks didn't know who to talk to, who to go to, make it easier.

95 Canning Class, Soap Making, Jam, Cheese and Naturewalk (new)

96 Van Geyte reported that he has been unable to devote the time to organizing the canning class.  
97 Jeff asked how the soap thing go? Van Geyte replied that it didn't. Jodi and Steve added it was  
98 vacation week and there was a Made in New Hampshire thing going on, bad timing. Van Geyte  
99 said we just cancelled it. Steve added jam making, five or six wanted to go. Van Geyte added  
100 12 at canning.

### 101 III. New Business

102 Jeff added try to make a point to have a cheese making class. Van Geyte responded that would  
103 be great, are you volunteering? Jeff replied absolutely, over course of a weekend, have to make  
104 it, set it, hang it and then process it. Jodi asked at the farm or here? Jeff replied at the farm. Van  
105 Geyte added get ahold of me and tell me the timeframe that would work, six or eight weeks  
106 notice to get it to you there. Jeff explained the process of making Queso or Cheve and time  
107 required, suggested a video, and that people will pay money for the class \$20-\$30 bucks. Jeff  
108 reported that his biggest dilemma is finding something for folks to do while it rests for a couple  
109 hours. Jeff suggested an ecological walk. Jodi said talk to Juliette about doing a soap making  
110 class while that's going on. Jeff added that bird watch might be good and/or reading the forested  
111 landscape, I've taught that book up teen sessions, walk through Chester woods, my property or  
112 Forsaith. Van Geyte asked are you volunteering? Jeff replied Yes, the book could be part of it

113 and we have phenomenal resources, black gum and rock walls and why they are there. Cindy  
114 added much longer than a filler though. Van Geyte added not a three-hour event. Jeff replied  
115 minimum four-week class, four Saturdays or four Fridays, three hours a piece, I'd teach that  
116 class in a heart-beat.

117 Van Geyte stated that in Segway to last thing I wanted to bring up, when visiting at Pat's office,  
118 chatting a bit, Deb is available and willing to do work on some of these things for us, I can't do  
119 it all, if we took some of our budgeting money and paid her to get some things accomplished,  
120 appropriate vote, certain amount of funds. Jeff asked what she was charging, absolutely dead in  
121 favor of hiring Deb to do specific outlined projects like that, Deb's phenomenal!

122 Jeff asked for an outline of meeting prior to meeting because its difficult to get coverage during  
123 milking season. Van Geyte replied its much more effective if I text everyone.

124 Jeff asked about approaching Selectmen concerning tax break for farmers running business who  
125 are Veterans, if the farms are in the name of the business, they are loosing out on the veteran's  
126 tax break and shouldn't be, making sure that it's a legitimate farm of course added Steve. I think  
127 there'd be less argument if you leave the word "farm" out of it, more in favor of a veteran  
128 owning a business, even if its yarn making. Jeff added \$500 is a month's worth of taxes for me,  
129 it adds up. Cindy added that it promotes small business. Steve added we need to go to the  
130 Selectmen and get Steph to come to a meeting, and Van Geyte suggested getting Matt on board  
131 with the Tri Town agreed Jeff.

132 On the issue of hiring Debra, don't have to take a vote on that, don't have a dollar figure yet, will  
133 run by everyone and email. Jodi reported not going to have canning class in June, Strawberries  
134 and Rasberries, no, in fall canning class. Jeff says he likes to do summer, Steve added depends  
135 on how veggies grow at this point. Van Geyte added maybe August or July, will send contact  
136 info for UNH.

137 Town Fair

138 Only another meeting for prep on that. Steve said gotta work with Rec, need tables and couple  
139 tents, last year we didn't get any tables. Van Geyte said we'll just request them. Jeff suggested a  
140 nice bi-fold card to sit on table. Jodi suggested rather than just brochures how about posterboard  
141 or easel hung from tent added Steve. Van Geyte added simplest thing is to just hand them a  
142 brochure with color coding on it, we have limited resources. Cindy added blow it up. Steve  
143 agreed that might work better for people.

144 Going to give Pepper money for Cow Plop, they have only handleable cow added Steve.

145 Jodi asked about the cutest and ugliest chicken contest again? Van Geyte said got our facebook  
146 page, Steve added first year was great, this year a flop. Steve liked seeing the kids vote. Jeff  
147 asked to be made an administrator on that and whether he could post pictures. Jodi asked about  
148 pictures of fair and ugliest chickens.

149 Turkey raffle. Jodi wondered about having live turkey and Steve worried people would be  
150 horrified and suggested a stuffed one in place of the one being donated but it would be cool to  
151 have a live turkey there.

152 Cow Plop Bingo Tickets. Perfect idea of something Deb could do.

153 IV. **Adjournment**

154 Jeff Geary motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Boeske seconded the Motion, all in favor, so  
155 moved. The meeting of the Town of Chester Agricultural Commission was adjourned at 8:35  
156 PM.

157 Respectfully submitted,

158

159 Nancy J. Hoijer