

Effingham Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes January 23, 2013

Present: AnnMarie Sargent, Deb Potter, Barbara Thompson, Tom Thompson, Bill Piekut, Jill Piekut

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

Minutes: Bill moved and AnnMarie seconded to accept the November minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: Copies of ag related newsletters and upcoming events forwarded from the market manager for the Effingham Farmers Market were passed out.

Old Business:

- It needs to be verified whether our NOFA membership runs on a calendar year.
- Membership: Terms for Barbara, Tom and Deb expire this year. Those interested should draft a letter of intent for presentation to the Board of Selectmen in order to be reappointed. As things stand this is the current roster and term expirations.

AnnMarie Sargent - term expires 2014

Deb Potter - term expires 2013

Tom Thompson – term expires 2013

Jill Piekut – term expires 2015

Alternate Bill Piekut – term expires 2014

Alternate Barbara Thompson – term expires 2013

New Business: 2013 Goals

- Bill suggested we see ourselves as a “Watchdog” commission and look at an issue with farmers in mind. Stay current with NH Farm Bureau legislative newsletter.
- Education: promote awareness regarding stewardship through direct contact with farmers and offer programs with agriculturally related speakers. Jill offered to look for speakers. Co-hosting with the Historical Society was discussed. It was suggested we have a survey available at town meeting to get input on how residents define “rural character”. Jill offered to enhance our display board for town meeting.
- Work on developing an agricultural chapter for the new master plan. It was suggested we look at other towns to see what they have created. This vehicle would be useful in developing ways to help protect larger parcels of prime agricultural land.

Other Business:

- Bill suggested we amend out meeting times to best fit the needs of the members. We could have meetings every other month or on an as-need basis. The commission will discuss this further after town meeting.
- Tom informed the members about upcoming zoning amendments regarding floodplain maps and usage of RV's on one's property. He said they have no effect on the ag comm.
- The commentary on 2012's activities is due for the town report in February. Barbara will draft a document and email to the members for review and comments.

Deb moved and Bill seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Next meeting – 2/13 work session to prepare our info board for town meeting.

Next regular meeting – 2/27

Minutes prepared by Barbara Thompson

These minutes are considered draft until approved at a regular meeting of the Agricultural Commission. Any corrections will be noted in the next meeting minutes.