

February 8, 2023 Minutes of the Hubbardston Agricultural Commission

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. Attendance: Tom Colyer, Keith Tetrault, David Marsh, Mary Varteresian, Cathy Hansgate. Minutes from the previous meeting-tabled.. Two members had resigned: Allison Smith, and Jane Abbott. Two new members were appointed by the Select Board and sworn in by the town clerk prior to the start of this meeting: Mary and Cathy.

Motions were made by Tom Colyer, and seconded by Dave Marsh; to have Keith Tetrault be the current chairman, and Cathy Hansgate to be secretary. All voted in favor.

Old Business: a possible social activity for the fall of 2022 for all farmers in town; a BBQ at Keith's farm for a Meet and Greet had been discussed but never materialized.

New Business:

1) Nomination of new members; completed

2) Agri-tourism bylaw; Cathy lead a discussion about the stalling of a new bylaw last June by an Ad Hoc Committee to develop one because none is allowed under the current town laws. She will bring a proposal to the next meeting for discussion, and hopefully the Ag. Comm. can put it on a warrant for the June 2023 town meeting.

3) Activities for 2023;

-update the list of hobby and active farmers in town.

-Farmers Social- tabled for tonight.

-Develop a new flyer for realtors (and therefore new residents) to include information about the Right to Farm policy of Hubbardston, the town website, who to contact with farming complaints, who to call with runaway animal issues. Tom Colyer to look into this.

-Update the town website: with members' names, complaints should be directed to Commission members.

-Reach out to Animal Control and update their contact list; Cathy to do this.

-Plan a Farm to School Day for June; Mary will take the lead on this and reach out to the Center School principal.

Financial update: Cathy reported the donation account has \$20.00 in it, and she thought that there was still \$300 in the Ag. Com. account.

Unexpected Topics: -Mary is concerned that the school children are not using the garden at the Center school, as it's a great tool to teach children about where their food comes from. She will speak to the principal about this. Cathy offered to provide seedlings, and they should be crops which would be harvested in the fall.

-Cathy would like to have a New Goal for the Ag. Commission: encouraging our town to have more trees to sequester CO₂ to impact the climate change we are experiencing. And that we could help plant trees when the Center of Town changes have been completed as many old trees were cut down. Everyone is in favor of this New Goal.

Next meeting to be March 1st, and then one on; March 15th.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by Cathy Hansgate, secretary