

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Members present: Stephen Craig (associate member), Janet Horne, Donna Kramer, Elisabeth Patt and William Suarez (associate member).

Members absent: Robert Blair (associate member) and Helen MacArthur.

Guest: Mark Tripp

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson Donna Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Stephen Craig made a motion, seconded by Elisabeth Patt, to accept the minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Garden: Bill Suarez reported that the growing is very successful this year as opposed to last year. All of our gardeners are very happy with the results so far as well as the box system being used. The garden is pretty much in maintenance mode now. The possibility of building a greenhouse was discussed. Perhaps we could apply for a grant for this project. Mark Tripp stated that he has access to a 10x12 salt box shape greenhouse that he could donate. The possibility of getting crushed stone from behind the garden for the floor of the greenhouse was also discussed.

Culinary Event: Steve Craig reported that he spoke to AJ at Outpost. AJ is very enthusiastic about this project and the idea of having each farm highlighted during the dinner. Perhaps turkey sausage and vegetables could be Outpost's donation. Steve reported that he still needs to contact Arcadian Farm and the Mayor's Plantation. Bill Suarez reported that MacArthur's Farm will be participating with donations of tomatoes and vegetables. Elisabeth Patt reported that she has spoken to Highland Farm who will be participating with summer squash. Patt's Blueberries will also be participating. Elisabeth still needs to contact Herbs Cider Mill. Donna Kramer will be contacting Tim Donohue and Bullard Farm. Mark Tripp stated that he could donate eggs. Betsy DeWolfe will also be contacted relative to donating eggs. Steve Craig will get back to Truffles to give them the information that we have so far. We need to get started on the marketing for the event through the newspapers, website, Holliston Reporter, flyers and mailings. The Food Pantry is working on a list. We need to have drafts of the flyer and ticket for the next meeting. Due to the timing for the planning of the event, it was decided to move our next meeting from Tuesday, July 20, 2010 to Monday, July 12, 2010.

Holliston Farms Day: Janet Horne reported that she has not heard from any of the farms relative to their participation in Farms Day. We will contact the farms directly to determine if they will be participating and what they plan to do.

Website: Bill Suarez reported that everything is status quo. We still need to do a newsletter. He is going to take pictures of the Community Garden to put on the website. He will be adding a link to the Holliston Historical Society.

Commission Member Appointment: Inasmuch as Melissa Bailey has resigned from the Commission due to moving out of state, Janet Horne made a motion, seconded by Steve Craig, that Bill Suarez move from associate to regular member. The motion passed unanimously. Mark Tripp has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Commission. Bill Suarez made a motion, seconded by Elisabeth Patt, that Mark Tripp become an associate member. The motion passed unanimously. Mark Tripp will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen along with a letter from the Commission relative to our vote.

Commission Officers for the Next Year: Following are the officers for the next year:

Donna Kramer	Chairperson
Elisabeth Patt	Vice Chairperson
Janet Horne	Clerk

Miscellaneous: Donna Kramer reported that she met with the Holliston Historical Society relative to developing a cranberry bog for educational purposes on the grounds of the society. Mark Connelly has looked at the property and said that he feels the property is good to start a bog. One possibility would be to put in a 14x10 bog behind the Shoe Shop. Mark has stated that he would help us with this project. We would need to send a formal letter to the Conservation Commission relative to any plans. This could perhaps be a project for the Eagle Scouts. They could be responsible for putting in the bog as well as maintaining it. Donna Kramer will pursue the development of this bog. Donna Kramer also asked if there was any interest in the Agricultural Commission becoming a member of the Historical Society. This will be discussed further at another meeting.

Bill Suarez made a motion, seconded by Elisabeth Patt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Horne, Clerk