

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Members present: Melissa Bailey, Stephen Craig (associate member), Janet Horne, Donna Kramer, Helen MacArthur and William Suarez (associate member).

Members absent: Robert Blair (associate member) and Elisabeth Patt.

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Bill Suarez made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Newcomer's Grant: Inasmuch as the members felt that the Community Garden would not meet the criteria for a grant from the Newcomer's Club, we did not apply this year.

Culinary Event: Melissa Bailey reported on the various directions this event could go. In Concord they had a Stone Soup Dinner at a cost of \$50.00 per person. Various restaurants came and set up stations. The dinner was a benefit for the soup kitchen. The Chef's Collaborative had a barn dinner which consisted of 5 courses at a cost of \$95.00 per person. There has also been the Heirloom Barn Dinner which is a 6 to 7 course sea coast harvest dinner involving 7 chefs at a cost of \$95.00 per person. We need to decide as to whether we want to do this dinner as a promotional event or as a fund raising event. Do we want to join with HBA and get the businesses in town involved? With regard to doing the event as promotional, Pinecrest would be willing to be involved and we could go in the direction of having various stations. Farms Day is a promotional event so going in the direction of a fund raiser would be another step for us. It could be a community wide event and would show agriculture in a different light. We would do a selective mailing within the community. Functionally it would be easier to deal with a smaller event and would be the beginning of something we could build on. Bill Suarez made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, that the Culinary Event will be a fund raiser. The motion passed unanimously. Possible locations for the event were discussed. Bill Suarez will check on Pinecrest and Janet Horne will check on the Historical Society and Town Hall. We also need to check on who we will get as the chef. One focus of the event would be to showcase the farms of Holliston and their products. We need to set up a budget for the event. This will be a smaller high ended event focused on 30 to 40 people maximum. It was decided that any profit from the event would go to the Holliston Food Pantry. Donna Kramer will check with Sylvia Strickney as to what we have to officially do with regard to the event being a benefit for the Food Pantry. We need to decide on the Date, Menu and Price. The event will probably have to be on a Monday evening due to the chef's availability in late July or early August.

Community Garden: Right now we have seven applications for a plot for the coming season. Soon the boxes will have to be built and the soil needs something to enrich it.

Website: Bill Suarez reported that traffic continues to be steady. He has added some live news feeds. Also discussed the possibility of putting a “Tip of the Month” on the site.

Miscellaneous: A request has been made to the Commission for members to attend a meeting in Medway on March 10, 2010 with regard to the Town of Medway establishing an Agricultural Commission. Steve Craig, Janet Horne, Donna Kramer and Bill Suarez said that they would be available to attend. The statewide Agricultural Commissions Conference will be on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Worcester State College. Janet Horne, Donna Kramer and Bill Suarez are planning to attend. A request was made by Bobby Blair with regard to the Agricultural Commission’s permission to authorize limited franking privileges for the Marigold Project mailing. Inasmuch as we will be doing a mailing, Donna Kramer will check with Paul LeBeau to see if we have limited franking privileges. Donna Kramer announced that Outpost Farm is now a CSA.

Melissa Bailey made a motion, seconded by Bill Suarez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk