

# HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Members present: Justin Brown (associate), Janet Horne, PJ Kilkelly (associate), Donna Kramer, Tony Lulek, Helen MacArthur and Paula Mark.

Members absent: Natalie Kent (associate).

Guests: Amine Benali, Bobby Blair, Dennis Serocki, Kristen Serocki and Aislinn Weaver.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Minutes of the Last Two Meetings: Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Justin Brown, to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2014 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Justin Brown made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Brooksmount Farm: The farm is currently in a demolition delay. Members of the Commission are still waiting to get permission to go on the property to look at the house and barn. Paula Mark will advise us when we have permission to go on the property.

Farms Day: This was a huge success again this year. It was felt that we need to do a better job with the advertising of the event next year. The date of Sunday, September 13, 2015 was chosen for next year's Farms Day.

Celebrate Holliston: Everything went well with our table at this event. Carolyn Dykema expressed an interest in our weed killer. A bill relative to natural products as opposed to pesticides is being presented in January. We still have 20 bottles of weed killer available for sale. It was brought up that we need to buy a canopy and have our name put on the front of it. Justin Brown and PJ Kilkelly will check into prices for the canopy. PJ Kilkelly made a motion, seconded by Justin Brown, that we allot the sum of up to \$75.00 to purchase a table. The motion passed unanimously. The date for Celebrate Holliston next year is September 19, 2015.

Website: Justin Brown reported that he will get the 2015 Community Garden form onto the website. He also will get the information on the weed killer on the site. He would appreciate any information that he can get to go up on the site. Perhaps we could have a page dedicated just to backyard poultry. Also we should further develop a frequently asked questions page.

Community Garden: Discussion was held as to how we are going to charge for the plots next year. With the additional plots, we will give one to Deb Moore if she wants one. Justin Brown made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, that the fee for non-profits and educational specific groups will be \$25.00 for the season. The motion passed unanimously. The members of the commission will meet at the garden on Sunday, October 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM to plant one plot of cranberries. With regard to the soil for the cranberries we do not need to overthink it. In the

spring we will have to reinvest into a sprinkler system.

Miscellaneous: PJ Kilkelly proposed to have a "Kiss the Pig" contest in order to raise money for a butterfly aviary. Justin Brown made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, that we get a booth at the Holiday Stroll in order to promote the "Kiss the Pig" contest. The motion passed unanimously. It was decided that our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2014.

Serocki Farm: The Commission needs to prepare a presentation for Town Meeting on October 27, 2014. There are two articles on the warrant relative to the property. The first article is part of the CPC proposal for funds of \$480,000 and the second article is for funds of \$100,000 from Open Space. The presentation should not be too long. We will need some good pictures. We also need to give an explanation of what 61A means. Dennis Serocki who lives next to the parcel of land in question, asked what we want to do with the land. Members of the commission expressed that our intention is to use as much of the land as possible. This would include planting, animals, wildlife, etc. We would like to turn it into an educational center. There is also the possibility that we could have a community farm. There are a number of grants available that could be applied toward this project. We are doing something that is going to last a long time. We will need a lot of volunteers to work on this project. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. A possible name for the farm could be "Serocki Community Farm and Educational Center."

Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Horne, Clerk