

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

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

Guests: Bobby Blair, Lixy Carey, Dennis Serocki, Kristen Serocki and Tim Smith.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Serocki Property: Tony Lulek reported that he has been advised by the Open Space Committee that everything is on track relative to the closing on the Serocki property. It was decided that we would like the Farm Bureau to be the ones to hold the CR. Lixy Carey, Chairperson of the Open Space Committee, has been in contact with Doug Gillespie. There is still the question relative to keeping the house which we would need to get additional approval for. Lixy stated that she is going to go to the town council relative to this matter because there is still a lot of unanswered questions. We want the house to remain in stable condition. We need to check on how to maintain the power and the heat. The water has not been tested. There is town water that goes through the property. If we are able to keep the house, it will have to be stripped down. Tony Lulek reported that he has been in touch with Mike and Mark of Pulte relative to the barn at Brooksmount. PJ Kilkelly and Tony are going to go to look at the barn. Right now we are the only ones who have expressed an interest in the barn. They will know more about the barn after Thursday. The property has not been sold yet. A discussion was held relative to a name for the property. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, that the name will be "Serocki Agricultural Preserve, a community farm and educational center". The motion passed unanimously. Justin Brown stated that we need to start thinking about ways to get grant money. PJ Kilkelly brought up the idea of having a golf tournament as a fund raiser. It has to be done correctly to be the most effective. We would need to get sponsors for each hole. Justin Brown said that it would take a lot of manpower. We could launch the idea at our winter event. PJ Kilkelly said that he would get more information and bring it to our next meeting. We also need to look at establishing a Friends of Agriculture group. A framework needs to be set up. We cannot proceed until the CR is in place.

Community Garden: Natalie Kent stated that she would like to see a more interactive plot plan on the application. The established gardeners have the right of first refusal on their plot. Everyone has to make their commitment by April 15, 2015. We currently have 30 plots. All the bulbs have been planted. There was 90% participation with the clean up.

Kiss the Pig: PJ Kilkelly stated that the votes so far are going very well with this contest. So far 220 lines have been sold. We need to push the contest on Facebook. PJ Kilkelly will be

giving a breakdown of the votes. The deadline for the voting will be the end of February.

Winter Program: We need to come up with a name for the event. It was decided to stay with "It's Spring Yet, a Holliston Agricultural Commission Event". PJ Kilkelly asked if we could look into getting a banner. We need to check on the availability of hanging it. The dimensions would be 2 feet high by 20 feet long. We also need to come up with a logo for the event. This will be an event intended for public awareness and there will be no advertising. There should be a table covering each of our events. It was suggested that we ask for a donation of \$5.00 per family. This year we should have bathrooms (one handicapped and one regular). We should also have some "No Parking" signs. If the ground is still frozen cars can park in the field. It was also felt that each member of the Commission should have a name tag.

Thank You Letters: It was felt that thank you letters should be sent to Holliston in Bloom and the Garden Club for their donation to the Community Garden. It was also felt that a thank you article should go on the Holliston Reporter. Also, a thank you letter should go to the farms who participated in Farms Day. Justin Brown will order cards from Vista.

Website: Justin Brown printed a report on the number of hits on the site which each member received a copy of.

Miscellaneous: PJ Kilkelly reported that he has reserved a spot for the Commission on the Lantern Walk which will take place on December 31, 2014 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on the Rail Trail. We will be serving hot apple cider and cookies. Justin Brown thanked PJ Kilkelly, Grace Kilkelly and Janet Horne for their participation in the Holiday Stroll. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

Donna Kramer made a motion, seconded by Justin Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne