

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

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

Member absent: PJ Kilkelly (associate).

Interested Party: Bobby Blair

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Motion made by Donna Kramer, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that at the spring event we took in \$10.00 from a sale of the weed killer, \$47.00 from the donation jar at the craft table and \$414.00 from admissions. Presently there is \$4255.76 in our account. We have also received \$270.00 from the St. Patrick's Day breakfast. Natalie Kent reported that she has been holding the handicap lot in the Community Garden. If there is no interest then she will give it to a person on the waiting list.

Spring Event ó Tony Lulek stated that he felt that the event went well and everything came together. He has not heard any negative comments relative to the event. He thinks that everyone really liked it and had no problem in paying the \$5.00 admission fee. The winner of the raffle basket donated her garden plot to someone at the Food Pantry. From the information on the back of the tickets provided to us by those attending, we can start a distribution list. It was felt that next year we should have the event in April.

HAP Budget ó Tony Lulek reported that the Con Com is in charge with what is being done with the land. Chuck and Rolf are working on the removal of some of the trees. We need to look at how we are going to fund the budget. We need to talk to Paul LeBeau and the Selectmen. Justin Brown stated that the ConCom don't want to take over the property and would like the AgCom to take it over. ConCom will write the agricultural restriction with the Farm Bureau. The deed of the property is held by the town. The conservation restriction will determine what we can do with the land. Donna Kramer stated that the Farm Bureau wants to make sure that the language goes along with agriculture. It will be one CR to cover all of the land. The wetlands and farm land will be considered one unit. Both Selectmen and Conservation would like to see us step up to the plate. We need to position ourselves to prove that we are the right group to have the care and custody. Donna Kramer and Paula Mark went to ConCom with a short list of accomplishments. Items that were mentioned that need to be done is putting up a fence, putting up signs, cleaning up brush and junk. We have to make sure that with every idea, we have the funding before submitting. We have limited funds. We can set aside a certain amount of money received from the revenue from the community garden. We could perhaps put in additional plots at HAP. Tony Lulek stated that he would be more than happy to go to a Selectmen meeting to outline our plans as well as present a budget. Justin Brown went over a budget. It was felt that

there should be a house inspection. It was suggested that we approach Peter Tartikoff to do the inspection. It was felt that perhaps the expenses would be covered by the town for a short period of time. Right now it is town owned but not used by the public. Budget is to keep the house in good condition. For the year 2015, we need to find out if the town would pay for it. Rolf is taking down trees. Tony Lulek asked if perhaps they can be used for fence posts. The property should generate the funds. It is a town building but can we use it for something that we can raise money. Justin Brown stated that if it was to be a public space then the inspection would tell us what we need to do and enable us to go about it professionally. AgCom will go before the Selectmen next week relative to the budget. Land needs to be surveyed. Revenue ó hopefully town will pay at the beginning. What we can do is tied up right now with the CR. The CR is from the Farm Bureau. ConCom are doing the edits and submitting to Farm Bureau. Tony Lulek stated that we need to make sure that we are protected on what we want to do. Justin Brown will check with Chuck as to where exactly are the wetlands. Source of revenue could be to mark out trails and give guided tours. Justin Brown stated that we need to generate revenue but not charge for everything that we do on the land. We need to think things through before we decide what to do. With selectmen approval we could set up some plots on the property. People would need to understand that it could be temporary and they may have to move in the future. Do a 30 x 30 and charge \$125 for the plot. We would stake it out and they would have to do the work and put up any fencing. Natalie Kent suggested that we also do smaller lots. It was suggested that the name for the property be "Holliston Agricultural Preserve". We will need to map out the land to see how many spaces we would have. Justin Brown stated that he feels that we should maintain the perimeter road. We will commit \$500.00 of our money towards the budget. Also income from the plots would go directly to the budget. Paula Mark suggested that we approach the Selectmen that we do have ideas of leasing out gardens and what do they think about it and let it go from there. Justin Brown asked if we want to have a defined amount of space ó 1st it would be for Holliston residents and then be offered to out-of-towners if they all are not taken. We could have 3 plots 30 x 30 - \$125 and 3 plots 15 x 15 for \$75.00. Natalie Kent stated that we still have 2 spaces available at the community garden. Tony Lulek suggested that we leave the handicapped lot open if it doesn't get taken. Paula Mark suggested that we offer the handicap plot to the Senior Center at a cost of \$25.00. For the presentation to the selectmen, we will give them our proposed budget and state that we would like to have an inspection. Helen MacArthur mentioned that there could be some grant opportunities for this project. We will need to have specific things to go for on a grant. We also need to ask the Selectmen if we can name the property the Holliston Agricultural Preserve.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

It was mentioned that Lisa Hopkins Dooling's daughter has expressed an interest in forming a junior Agricultural Commission.

Justin Brown reported that the town does sell compost bins for \$22.00. We should promote people getting them.

Natalie Kent reported that she has contacted Tom Smith relative to the snow pile in front of the Community Garden. At the present time the Community Garden may not be at the top of the

list.with regard to snow cleanup. We would just like to get enough cleared to be able to get to the garden.

Natalie Kent stated that she will be applying for a grant with the Garden club.

At 9:00 PM a roll call vote was taken to go into Executive Session due to reason #1. The vote was unanimous to go into session.

At the close of the executive session, a motion was made by Donna Kramer, seconded by Paula Mark, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Tony ó Go before the Selectmen to present our budget as well as ask about a house inspection.

Justin ó Check with Chuck as to where the wetlands are exactly.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk