

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

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

Members absent: Donna Kramer, Helen MacArthur

Interested Parties: Anya Carey, Lisa Doolin, Tyla Doolin, Jill Foley, Kate Gray, Chuck Katuska and Kristen Serocki.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants: Natalie Kent reported that we are still waiting to hear from the Garden Club and Celebrate Holliston. Tony Lulek reported that he and PJ Kilkelly went to the barbecue for the Newcomers Club and received a grant check in the amount of \$5,800.00. He thanked Natalie Kent for all the work that she did on the grant. Natalie Kent thanked Tony and PJ for going to the barbecue.

Community Garden: Natalie Kent reported that we are at 100% at the garden. We need to plan to work on the weeding at the community garden this weekend.

Butterfly Aviary: PJ Kilkelly reported that we have the hoop building and the base is in. Hopefully in the next 10 days to 2 weeks it will be complete.

Rogers Road Property: Tony Lulek reported that he has been working to determine what is the best thing to do with the property. He met with Joel Morgenstern who is on the board of the Medway Community Farm. This land purchase was similar. Their purchase totaled about 5 acres. A non-profit is in charge of the land. This project started back in 2007. They also had a house on the property which was not in good shape but they did get it into shape. They have hired an Executive Director to handle the educational programs. They started a long time ago with no money but now have a board and get grant money. Tony is trying to talk to the president of the board and the farmer and her husband who live on the property. In his opinion this is what we need to do with the property in order to make it work. Chuck Katuska stated that initial feedback from the Conservation Commission is that this is great. Their initial input is all very positive. Tony Lulek stated that this is a project that is going to take a good 10 years. A lot of people in Medway volunteered to make theirs possible. Tony still has a lot of questions. Chuck will have a brief discussion on this next Tuesday at their meeting. In the long term the Conservation Commission will welcome the care and custody of this property. This is the first piece that has been purchased for open space and agricultural purposes. The Selectmen hold the deed. Once it goes to care and custody with Conservation Commission then it is open space.

Tony would like to see the bylaws of the 501(C)3 from Medway. Chuck said that by getting access to their files, this could guide us. Chuck said that they are happy to advance the process. Chuck said that it looks like a workable model. Tony also stated that he has spoken to Rolf who has asked relative to a new employee of his to live in the house to oversee and do some tree work. We should have a caretaker's agreement in hand which Chuck will look into. Chuck will look into a custodian agreement. Peter Tartikoff, when he did his inspection, saw nothing wrong with the house. We should have a structural engineer look at it. Peter Tartikoff has said that we would need to have the septic system inspected. There is no record of the cesspools having been serviced. The town has no record. Board of Health has no records of any service. This is something that would have to be taken of. Justin Brown questioned if the system is up to standard for public use. Justin asked if the inspection done by Peter is what the selectmen was looking for. We do need to have a structural engineer look at the back wall of the house. PJ Kilkelly stated that the lawnmower is being sent out for repair. Anya Carey is looking to do some community service work. PJ will go over next week to mow the lawn. Also we will need to do a clean up. Chuck stated that the Conservation Commission is happy for the moment to sit back and weigh in where they may have to when there may be a concern that is not being addressed. He thinks using the Medway as a model is a real positive step. Absolutely thinks that they will support this approach. Tony wants to have some more meetings with the people from Medway. Good question would be if you had this to do all over, what would you do differently. Chuck feels that the Conservation Commission would be happy to put something in writing. Tony thought that we may be able to co-ordinate with Anya relative to doing a clean up on the property. Justin Brown is working on woodchips for the property. Chuck stated that the CR is not restrictive to us but it is relative to future development.

Junior AgCom: Tyra Doolin gave Tony a list of people who are interested on volunteering. We still need to develop a plan. PJ suggested that Tyra come up with ideas of what they would like to be involved in. PJ would like to get more cranberry plants for the community garden.

Website: Tony stated that there is no contact information on the town website. Janet Horne will send the agenda each month to Justin to go on the website.

Procedure for selecting members and application for HAC positions: Donna Kramer has resigned from the Board. To those who may have an interest in serving on the commission, an application needs to be a letter with a listing of reasons why they wish to serve on the commission and what their credentials are. We need wording to put on our website and the town website. Tony will make copies of the handbook for Agricultural Commissions for each member who wants a copy.

Miscellaneous: Justin Brown asked if plans have been made for future snow dumps other than the community garden. PJ Kilkelly still has not gotten any reply relative to the repair of the fence. PJ's estimate to fix the fence is around \$1000 to \$1200. The parking lot has been swept. In September we need to go to the Selectmen relative to addressing the future winter situation and snow dumps. It was suggested that maybe we should have recurring deliveries of woodchips to the garden. Justin suggested we talk to the town relative to woodchips. PJ asked relative to the sprinklers. Natalie stated that the towers aren't set and looks like that we need more towers. We need to get 2 hoses and 4 wands for the watering. Tony feels we should come up with a

better plan of doing things naturally. PJ stated that the area of the garden is much bigger this year. Natalie feels that we may need soaker hoses. Justin stated that we need hoses and hand wands in lieu of towers and timers. Paula Mark will put out on Facebook that we need help with irrigation. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Action Items

#### All Members

Weeding at the Community Garden

#### Tony Lulek

Continue conversation with Medway Community Garden.

Co-ordinate with Anya Carey relative to her community service work

Provide copies of the Agricultural Commission Handbook to all members

#### Paula Mark

Put out on Facebook a request for help relative to the irrigation at the Community Garden.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Horne, Clerk