

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

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

Member absent: Helen MacArthur

Interested Parties: Cathy Snyder, Gail Taralli and Jim Taralli

Meeting called to order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to accept the minutes of the June 30, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Cathy Snyder, Vice President of the Newcomers Club, spoke relative to the grant that they gave us. The Butterfly Aviary was their favorite project. She stated that she would like to propose to the Commission that on Farms Day the Newcomers Club be allowed to have their membership fair at the aviary. None of the members of the Commission have a problem with this request. They will have a tent set up and there could be around 100 people attending. Natalie Kent will be at the Community Garden for Farms Day. We will need another volunteer to be at the aviary. Paula Mark volunteered to represent the Commission at the aviary. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to invite the Newcomers Club to participate in Farms Day at the Butterfly Aviary. The motion passed unanimously. Natalie Kent thanked Cathy Snyder and the Newcomers Club for their generosity with the award of the grant.

Back to Basics as an Agricultural Commission: Tony has been reading the handbook for agricultural commissions printed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. One thing that we have not done as a commission is to find out who are the farms in our town. We need to go out and canvas the neighborhoods. This is maybe something we could do over the next couple of months. PJ Kilkelly suggested that we draft out a letter and send it out. Paula Mark thinks a personal visit would be better. Tony Lulek suggested that we could do both by giving them a letter while on a personal visit. Tony thinks that we should have business cards. We also need to make sure that thank you notes go to the Newcomers Club, MiracleGro, Lions Club and local groups who have supported our projects. Natalie Kent is going to put together a press packet. Justin Brown stated that regulations do not allow us to ask actually how many animals individuals may have. Tony Lulek stated that he would like to ask Scott Moles, Board of Health Agent, to come to an Agricultural Commission meeting to discuss the health regulations on animals. Paula Mark will contact Scott to invite him to a meeting. It will also be good for him to be comfortable working with us.

Butterfly Aviary and Community Garden: Natalie Kent reported that she still has only one on the waiting list. Natalie asked PJ Kilkelly if he could turn over one plot for this individual to use for the rest of the season. It was also brought up that we need better water pressure at the garden.

Natalie stated that everyone has been very happy and pleased with the garden this year. PJ Kilkelly stated that some more wire needs to be added on the gate to prevent animals from getting into the garden. PJ Kilkelly stated that he has not much to report relative to the aviary. Everything is going well and we have a lot of caterpillars and plants are disappearing. PJ is going to put button quail in the Aviary. PJ stated that the Holliston in Bloom judges will be at the aviary on Friday. They are planning to have lunch at the clubhouse and then tour the golf course. Following the tour of the golf course they will go to the community garden and the aviary. Tony Lulek stated that he will try to make it. PJ has gotten another dozen monarchs to go into the aviary. Janet Horne made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to authorize PJ Kilkelly to buy the monarchs for release in the aviary. The motion passed unanimously. PJ is going to give the boxes of Monarchs to the judges for them to release on Friday. PJ has an open/close sign for the door. PJ stated that he is going to have pre-addressed stamped envelopes for people to send in donations. It was suggested that we place a donation box in the vestibule because people are more apt to drop off a donation rather than mailing it. Natalie Kent reported that she helped with a tour for special needs students at the aviary. It was suggested that we check with Helen MacArthur relative to getting some more plants. At our grand opening event at the aviary we took in \$147.00 in donations. PJ Kilkelly submitted his final bill on the aviary in the amount of \$3,250.00 which covered the construction as well as the water line. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Janet Horne, to approve the payment of the final construction bill on the aviary. The motion passed unanimously.

Farms Day: Janet Horne reported that the letters have gone out to the various farms. Those that we know are definitely participating are: Newfound Farm, Kilkelly Farm, Mayorø Plantation, Lil Folk Far, Community Garden, Butterfly Aviary, and the Newcomers Club. It was suggested that in addition to the farms that have already received the letter that we also send a letter to Boston Honey Company, October Farm and Maple Arch Farms. We will also contact Arcadian Farms and Out Post Farm directly to make sure that they are planning to participate again this year. Tony Lulek will do a general flyer now and will do another one at a time closer to the event with a map. He will also do a big size laminated poster to be placed at MacArthurs, Out Post and Arcadian. Paula Mark is going to check to see how many signs we have and if we need to order more since we lost some last year. Justin Brown will put out a general request on the website asking individuals to let us know what they may be planning to do for the day. Paula Mark will handle the publicity which will include Facebook, local cable, Holliston Reporter, MetroWest Daily News, Holliston Town Pages and Heartbeat of Holliston. It was decided that the signs and the poster should go out the 3rd week of August. Tyla Doolin and the Junior AgCom members will help with this distribution. Justin Brown stated that after the event we should send out thank you notes to all who participated.

Procedures for Projects Going Forward: Using Farms Day as an example, we need to set up procedures for our projects. With Farms Day, we determined that the following would be the procedure: February or prior ó set the date for the event; April ó send out letters to the farms to determine who will be participating; June ó start discussing plans for the event, do a save-the-date flyer; July ó start advertising for the event, do the flyer with all the farms and events; August ó put out the signs as well as distributing flyers to the various farms participating.

Rogers Road Property: Tony Lulek reported that he has not had an opportunity to talk to Mary Greendale relative to her help with this project. Paula Mark reported that Joey mowed the lawn the weekend of July 4th. PJ Kilkelly stated that the house should be checked every week. Boston Honey Company have put in their hives on the property and Natalie Kent has received a check from Andy Reseska. Paula Mark reported that she has received a survey estimate in the amount of \$2000.00 from GLM. This information will be turned over to the Conservation Commission. It was decided that we do need to have the whole property surveyed. Paula will contact Chuck Katuska.

Website: Justin Brown requested a new map of the Community Garden to put on the website.

Miscellaneous: It was decided to participate in Celebrate Holliston by having a booth again this year. Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2015.

Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

Justin

Order business cards and thank you notes.

Put out a general request on the website asking individuals what they may be planning to do on Farms Day.

Natalie

Put together a press packet.

Give Justin a current map of the Community Garden.

Paula

Invite Scott Moles, Board of Health Agent, to attend one of our meetings.

Check to see how many Farms Day signs we have and what we need to order.

Start publicity for Farms Day.

Contact Chuck Katuska, Conservation Agent, relative to the Rogers Road survey.

PJ

Turn over remaining plot at Community Garden.

Add wire to gate at Community Garden to prevent animals from getting into the garden.

Place a donation box in the vestibule at the aviary.

Helen

Additional plants as needed for the aviary.

Janet

Send letter on Farms Day to additional farms.

Tony

Make a flyer and poster for Farms Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk