

## HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

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

Interested Parties: Kevin Conley and Jocelyn Tremblay

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Chairperson, Tony Lulek stated that he was resigning as Chairperson and from the Agricultural Commission. He cannot continue to deal with the stress because it is affecting his health. He has had conversations with Mark Ahronian relative to the Butterfly Aviary. Mark is going to bring it up at the next meeting of the Holliston in Bloom committee. Tony also stated that he feels that the Community Garden should stay with the Agricultural Commission. Helen MacArthur stated that she understands completely and that Tony's resignation as well as Paula's is a real loss to us all. Paula Mark stated that we all kept trying to move forward but were continually pushed back. She feels that we got involved in too many projects. Her letter of resignation was being submitted to the Board of Selectmen after this meeting. Tony stated that it is not acceptable the way members of the commission have been treated. We need to try to bring the commission back to its mission. Natalie Kent asked the question as to why we are under a microscope. She does not know what to say relative to the Golf Advisory Committee taking over the community garden. Jocelyn Tremblay asked what happened at the Selectmen's meeting where the community garden and butterfly aviary were discussed. It was stated that the Golf Advisory Committee want to take over the Community Garden and the Butterfly Aviary. Natalie asked who will ultimately make the decision relative to who oversees these operations. Natalie was told that it would be the Board of Selectmen. Helen MacArthur stated that she thought that we were going to look for someone to oversee the Butterfly Aviary and be in charge of the opening and closing each day. Would like to see it stay with the Agricultural Commission with the support of another group and an individual designated as the manager. Everything needs to be in place no later than July 1, 2016. Natalie stated that she had been asked by one of the gardeners if the aviary could be changed over to a greenhouse for those who have a garden plot. Jocelyn asked if perhaps it could be used for both. Justin Brown asked us all to hold on longer to do some research. Justin feels that we need to find the right group to work with. Natalie spoke further relative to the Community Garden. Tony feels that it should remain with the Agricultural Commission. Justin stated that he feels that Natalie should go before the selectmen relative to the Community Garden. Both Helen and Justin agreed that collaboration would be good perhaps with the Holliston in Bloom committee. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Janet Horne, that the Community Garden stay under the direction of the Agricultural Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Justin stated that someone needs to present our desire to continue the supervision of the Community Garden to the Board of Selectmen. We will send a request to the selectmen to be placed on their agenda for May 18, 2016 and Justin Brown will be our spokesperson. Janet Horne made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, that we authorize

Jocelyn Tremblay to reach out to the schools with regard to the aviary. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Helen MacArthur made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Garden: Natalie Kent reported that the clean-up has been started. Quite a few of the perennials have started to come up. She will advise members of the date that a full spring clean-up will be done. We need about 3 truckloads of wood chips dumped by the aviary to be used between the plots in the Community Garden. Justin Brown has secured a truckload of compost but he needs to find a dump truck to transport it. Natalie would like to get it to the garden within the next week. The compost is coming from Cassidy Farm and they are giving us the first truckload. Plot #31 needs to be rototilled. Tyla Doolin will try to do it on Sunday. Natalie reported that at present we do not have water. She is working with Joe Ekstrom. Natalie was reminded that if there is a leak in the line, we are responsible for the repair of it. Natalie stated that 90% of the gardeners have already started planting in their plots. With regard to the fence pieces, Natalie stated that she will ask PJ if he wants the pieces back. Tyla Doolin suggested that we ask PJ if he wants to be compensated for the pieces and we will keep them. Natalie stated that our new canopy has been stored in the shed at the garden.

Spring Event: Due to cold weather conditions and the fact that we had to reschedule the date due to severe weather on the original date, the spring event was small. Those who did attend all seemed to have a good time.

Miscellaneous: The members of the commission all reviewed a letter of apology addressed to the Board of Selectmen relative to a situation that happened in 2012. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to approve and send the letter. The motion passed unanimously. Tony Lulek stated that he will hold off sending his letter of resignation to the selectmen until next month. Janet Horne made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to approve the moving of Justin Brown from an associate member to a regular member of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Helen MacArthur made a motion, seconded by Janet Horne, that our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. The motion passed unanimously. Justin Brown advised the members that Bertucci's would be having a dining for dollars event to benefit Holliston in Bloom. All members expressed their regret for the resignation of Paula Mark and thanked her for all that she has done for the Commission.

Helen MacArthur made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Horne, Clerk