

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Approved 13 August 2019

Location: 019

PJ Kilkelly, Carrie Marsh, Grace
Kilkelly, Cherie Hafford

Date: 09 July 2019 TUESDAY

Time: 7pm

Facilitator: PJ Kilkelly

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order 7:12
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment none
4. Approve June Minutes (2 sets)
 - a. Postponed approval of the 18 June minutes
 - b. Approved 24 June minutes
5. Approve Treasurer's Report Deposited 1000: 6,169.17
6. Old Business
 - a. Grade School Pollinator garden: Carrie update New date is July 27 for constructing and plant the garden. Landscaper will submit an invoice for blocks when finished.
 - b. Butterflies: PJ update Cover was put on Sunday. Some netting repair is needed. A dozen Monarchs and a few dozen Painted Ladies are coming on Friday, will be open to public on Saturday. Open sunup to sundown.
 - c. Community Garden: PJ update Significant maintenance will be needed this fall (October). An estimated \$1000 necessary for materials: The 10 foot boards are rotted out, more chicken wire is needed to keep out woodchucks and rabbits.

Discussion followed about alternate material for the raised beds. Each plot is 40 linear feet and there are 33 plots. Cherie agreed to gather prices for interlocking blocks.
 - d. Chick-hatching: PJ POSTPONED reporting
 - i) midsummer quail hatching
 - ii) another library hatching
 - iii) senior center interest in hosting a hatching
 - e. Blog updates: Carrie nothing to report.
 - f. Website updates: Cherie
 - i) Adding the Sept Farms Day info.
 - ii) Other: Update Butterfly PDF with donation information and 6b (above)

7. New Business

a. Farm Day

- i) Brochure/posters: Cherie Brochure approved with addition of 2 farms, change name to “Holliston Farms Day” (Community Farm periodically holds a “Family Farm Day”) and change time under Farmers Market to “closes at 2pm”

PJ will talk to Martha about setting up an AgCom booth at the popup farmers market. AgCom agreed it would be appropriate to have some literature to hand out, to remind people the AgCom exists, that Holliston is a right-to-farm town, and what this means to those living in Holliston. Possible points of focus for the literature:

Identify where people could “buy local”

How to get help if starting up a farming effort (hobby or professional)

Where to go if there is a problem with living in a right-to-farm community

Preserve land, preserve pollinators, right to farm, and potentially the upcoming town vote on acquiring farmland

AgCom could also collect names/email addresses of those interested in receiving the AgCom newsletter. PJ will be manning the booth and requested a way to collect emails (clipboard and sign-up sheet).

- ii) Cherie will send the modified brochure to all farmers on the list and to Martha. They will have 2 weeks to make changes before the posters need to be printed and put up (approximately 6 weeks before the event)
- iii) The sign stakes for advertising Farms Day need to be replaced. Cherie will get estimates.

8. Celebrate Holliston

- i) Basically same as Farms Day: there will be a booth, selling milkweed seed, literature, sign-up for newsletter.
- ii) Carrie offered some lavender product if the AgCom is interested in a drawing or giveaway to encourage more community participation.

9. Newsletter

Next newsletter: PJ

1st one covered Jan – April.

2nd one will cover May – July. Carrie will put draft together.

- Farm Day, opportunity to join the popup farmers market
- Pollinator Garden
- Butterfly House and releases
- Forestry PJ: nothing yet on this, but Sherborn is holding an Open House early in Sept Open House from 8:30am to 3:30pm Sept 14.
- Multi-agcom meeting
- Open Space and AgCom meeting

Carrie will create a draft newsletter with the above topics.

2. Adjournment 8:26pm