

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Members present: Janet Horne, Donna Kramer, PJ Kilkelly (associate member), Tony Lulek, Helen MacArthur, Paula Mark (associate member) and William Suarez.

Guests: Justin Brown, Pamela Brown, Nasrin Morovaty and Jim Stucchi.

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Donna Kramer made a motion, seconded by William Suarez, to accept the minutes of March 20, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

Winter Event: Tony Lulek reported that everyone that went to the program thought it was great. Donations paid for the speaker. Tony asked the members to send him suggestions relative to a program for next year. We need to continue to encourage the farmers to come.

Community Garden: Tony Lulek reported that everything went great with the clean-up. Tony also reported that he has gotten some woodchips from Stumpys. They will drop them off at the Community Garden to be placed on the paths. Bill Suarez reported that he will be putting in additional sprinklers and a high flow diverter. Donna Kramer will be supplying a load of manure. Reminders for payment have gone out. It was suggested that we put out two whiskey barrels with flowers by the sign.

Website: Nothing to report.

Miscellaneous: Nazarine ? attended the meeting to advise us that the City of Lowell has a community greenhouse for sale. She did not know what the price was. She will forward what information she does have to Bill Suarez for him to contact the city. There is interest among the gardeners to have a greenhouse at the community garden. It was suggested that possibly we could have some type of fund raiser during Farms Day. Could possibly sell some type of native plant. Donna Kramer suggested possibly have someone build a greenhouse. It was reported that the cranberries have had to be retagged so there are no cuttings available. Jim Stucchi is going to talk to Jeff LeFleur to see if he can help. Tony Lulek reported on Agriculture Day at the State House. Jim Stucchi who is Secretary of the Nursery and Landscape Association asked all to plant something on May 15, 2013. He also spoke on sustainable water, EPA regulations and DEP water restrictions and bans. Once these become a consumer problem with watering, there will be a trickle down effect that because of not being able to water, they will not buy plants and flowers. He is asking the Commission to work on having the wording changed with the water commissioners. Watering for agricultural purposes is allowed. Water bans do not need to be as strict. We need to educate the town on the benefit of drip irrigation. We can use a permit system to water new plantings. The year 2014 is when the regulations will go into effect. The Board of Selectmen have on their agenda on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 to approve the application of Justin Brown to become an associate member of the commission. The next

meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:00 PM. This was later changed to Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 7:00 PM due to the Town Election. Donna Kramer stated that she still wants to look into 61A.

William Suarez made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk