

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

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

Members absent: Justin Brown (associate) and Natalie Kent (associate).

Interested Parties: Lisa Doolin, Tyla Doolin, Carol Hildreth and Richard Hildreth.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Donna Kramer made a motion, seconded by PJ Kilkelly, to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that we have \$5,007.54 in our account.

Richard Hildreth spoke on butterflies. He grew up in Holliston and in the late 1940's he started getting interested in butterflies. In 1952 the first real field guide on butterflies was published. He has seen 40 different species in his yard. He gave us a list of useful books and a checklist of butterflies. We need to learn to identify the different species of butterflies. We should probably get a guidebook. We also need to get a good pair of binoculars and a notebook to start writing down what species we see. We should encourage people to get out and look at natural history. Butterflies like open country. The females are looking for plants to lay their eggs on. They have to have nectar. To encourage butterflies we need to have weedy vivacious plants not a wooden area. We need to have an area that we can have vivacious plants, flowering plants and catapillar plants. He also told us that the Massachusetts Butterfly Club has a website. Some of the members of the club are experts in creating a garden. Butterflies do need sunny days. We will need to maintain an area with urbacious plants. We need to start to go out looking for them. Richard showed us pictures of caterpillars and on baiting. He suggested that we have an open area with as many flowering plants as we can get. There are a lot of books that have been published and we need to get a good field guide to help us. We thanked Richard for his presentation which gave us a lot to think about.

Tyla Doolin spoke to the members of the Commission with regard to a junior Agricultural Commission. They would help work with us on different projects. Tony Lulek stated that he felt that we could use 12 to 14 helpers. PJ Kilkelly asked if there was any particular project that they may be interested in. The projects that came to mind were Farms Day, Celebrate Holliston and the Rogers property. Tyla will be talking to members of her group to see exactly how many will be interested in pursuing different projects.

Community Garden: Natalie Kent has advised us that there is one plot left. PJ Kilkelly stated that he still has not heard anything about the fence. He will take care of getting the water turned on. The sand in the parking lot has been pushed off to the side. The Selectmen are looking into

the town fixing the fence. Natalie Kent has advised us that the gardeners are looking for compost. There are 4 to 5 yards at the garden right now. Paula Mark will contact Justin Brown to see if he has some manure. Tony Lulek will contact the Selectmen relative to the status of the fence.

Cranberries: Bullard Memorial Farm has approached the Commission relative to growing cranberries on their property. It was felt that we would not pursue doing this but if they want to do it themselves, we have no objection. Paula Mark will contact Bullard Memorial Farm to advise them of our decision.

Rogers Road Property: Tony Lulek reported that he, PJ Kilkelly and Paula Mark walked the entire property last Saturday. On April 24, 2015, Rolf is doing some tree work on the property for the Conservation Commission. Rolf is also talking of running a program at the property in the fall. Tony Lulek reported that he went to the Selectmen meeting. The deed for the property resides with the Selectmen. Tomorrow morning at 8:30 AM the Building Inspector and the Health Inspector are going to the house. We need to come up with revenue sources to support the house. We have gotten permission for the garden plots and the perimeter fence. So far we have not gotten any response with regard to the plots. It was felt that perhaps the property would be the perfect spot for the butterfly area.

Butterfly Aviary: PJ Kilkelly asked if we want a garden or open. The butterflies would hatch out in the classrooms and then be taken up into an enclosure and we would do selective releases during the summer. It is a hoop house which has to be built. Inside there would be shelves with pots and plants which perhaps could come from the Garden Club. PJ Kilkelly will check to see if the structure is still available. We will need to order kits. We will need to decide how many we want and when will they be available. Helen MacArthur asked how big do the plants have to be. The varieties that were mentioned were butterfly bushes and milkweed plants. The plants would have to be movable. Tony Lulek asked Helen MacArthur to check on the cost of the plants and the best types for butterflies. Donna Kramer stated that she is picking up some butterfly plants on Saturday to be planted at the garden. It was mentioned that if we are unable to get the hoop than maybe we could have an open garden at the Rogers Road property. We have to keep in mind that this will be something that will have to be maintained.

The date selected for the next meeting was Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Donna Kramer made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Paula Mark - Contact Justin Brown relative to manure for the community garden. Contact Bullard Memorial Farm relative to decision on the cranberries.

Tony Lulek - Contact the Selectmen relative to the repair of the fence at the Community Garden.

PJ Kilkelly - Check on the status of the hoop house.

Helen MacArthur - Check on the cost of the plants for the butterfly aviary.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk