

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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

Guest: Bobby Blair

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting: William Suarez made a motion, seconded by Paula Mark, to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Culinary Event: All members agreed that we will not be doing a culinary event this year. Donna Kramer will check on getting thank you cards to go out to those who participated.

Winter Event: The winter event will be on organic gardening. Tony Lulek will contact Andy Tomolonis who runs a CSA to speak on backyard gardening. The event will take place at the Middle School at 7:00 PM on Friday, March 22, 2013. We will reach out to our Community gardeners via the website. We need to get advertising in place.

Farming Practices: The matter of the amount of beehives on land on Highland Street was brought up. The management of the land is the Audubon Society. It was suggested that a letter be sent to them with documentation relative to amount of hives that a section of land can support. William Suarez will draft a letter to go to the Audubon Society after he has received the proper documentation. Donna Kramer will also check with the Farm Bureau. Also the matter of the disposing of manure was brought up. This is a matter that had gone before the Planning Board and then to Town Meeting with no notification to the Agricultural Commission for their input. Donna Kramer reported that you can cover the manure with a tarp and you will be in compliance. No additional building needs to be constructed.

Website: William Suarez is going to revamp the application guidelines for the Community Garden.

Miscellaneous: The date for our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, 2013. We presently have two associate openings on the commission. Two names that were mentioned who may have an interest were Linda Scruton and Justin Brown. Bobby Blair announced that the Blair Square dedication will be on March 17, 2013. This open space would be good for a Farmers Market. It could be done by working with the Rail Trail group and maybe having it during the week.

William Suarez made a motion, seconded by Tony Lulek, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk