

HOLLISTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

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

Interested Parties: Paul Saulnier, Kristen Serocki and Jocelyn Tremblay.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Tony Lulek called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Chairperson, Tony Lulek read a letter addressed to the Agricultural Commission from the Board of Selectmen relative to Andy Reseeka. We need to draft a letter in response to their letter. Tony will draft a response to their letter as well as a letter of apology. Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, that we respond to the letter from the selectmen. The motion passed unanimously. Justin Brown stated that in moving forward we need to be an ambassador to the community. We want issues brought to our table. If any issues do come up we need to do a quarterly report to the Selectmen.

The Treasurer reported that the balance in our account is \$5,288.26. We need to know how much of this balance is dedicated to the aviary. Helen will have this information for our next meeting.

Minutes of the Last Two Meetings: Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2016 and March 8, 2016 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Spring Event: Tony Lulek stated that MacArthur's Farm looks good with the crushed stone. Helen stated that they are going to open up the greenhouses in the back. Right now it is hard to predict what might unfold with the weather. This is something we will have to keep an eye on and make a decision as to whether we can still have the event. Natalie Kent showed the members the new Agricultural Commission canopy which will be used for the first time at the event. The total cost for the canopy was \$503.00. It was decided to meet at MacArthur's on Saturday at 2:00 PM to start the set up and then plan to be there at 10:00 AM on Sunday. There will be a table at the entrance where individuals attending the event can make their donation in order to get a drawing ticket. They will be allowed to purchase additional tickets for the drawing. Each member of the commission will donate an item for the drawing. It was also mentioned that we could also include some chicks in the drawing. Paula Mark has the donation bucket as well as the drawing tickets. Following is what will be at the event:

- Mulching and Compost Bin (Justin Brown)
- Composting (David Dubin)
- Organic Farming Method (Lisa Bobrin)
- Beekeeping (Tony Lulek)
- Craft Table & decorating pots and planting (Jocelyn Tremblay)

Incubator with baby chicks, chickens, goats and bunnies (Tyla Doolin)
Informational Table (Solar City)
Demonstration of Seed Planting (Peter MacArthur)
Community Garden with seed catalogs (Natalie Kent)
Agricultural Commission with sign-up sheet for e-mail addresses (Janet Horne)

Between all of us on the commission, we will need to make sure that everything at the event is manned.

Community Garden: Natalie Kent reported that she has redone the plot plan. She will contact three of the individuals on the wait list tomorrow to tell them that they do have a plot this year. The plot that was won in the drawing at our Spring Event last year is still on hold until we are able to contact the individual who had the plot. Natalie stated that all of the gardeners are very positive about the upcoming season. She stated that we need soil in the sandy plot. There are two to three plots where some of the boards need to be replaced. She is presently targeting the second full week in April for the gardeners to start. She will be working at the garden on the weekend of the 9th. If the boards cannot be delivered then Justin Brown said that he would pick them up. Fencing is still an issue. Justin suggested putting in a gate. The issue of manure for the gardeners was discussed. Justin suggested that we approach farms in Medway relative to cow manure. Natalie stated that she has called relative to turning on the water next Monday. Tony Lulek stated that he has been approached relative to kids who need to do community service. We will table this request at the present time.

Butterfly Aviary: Tony Lulek reported that he has spoken to the Newcomers Club and they have stated that it would be too much of a project for them to take on. We do need to find someone to manage the aviary. Jocelyn Tremblay suggested that we contact the schools relative to maintaining the aviary. We need to determine how we are going to open and close it each day. We need to find individuals to co-ordinate this effort.

Paula Mark reported that Medway is in the process of reactivating their Agricultural Commission. They would like to come to one of our meetings.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Paula Mark made a motion, seconded by Helen MacArthur, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Horne, Clerk