

Minutes for 11/06/18

Selectmen's Office Town Hall

Called to Order at 4:00 pm

Present: Sue Wingate, Ron Sundquist, Geoff Blackett, Mike Haegar; Kim, Reed, Bill Marcussen arrived late.

Absent: Joan Magrauth, Karen Nemeth.

With two members absent Geoff Blackett had voting powers.

Minutes from previous meeting were accepted as read.

Reports from Members/Year-End Review

1. Composting Demo: Ron provided an overview of the status of the composting demo adjacent to the rear of the Community Garden. It is ready to be put to bed for the season. We could use additional green matter and would like to have the grass clippings from the cemetery and around the town offices if there are no chemicals. Sue will check and see whether the lawn area is treated with anything other than fertilizer. Having a shredder will greatly reduce the hand work Ron has put in this season to reduce large items. Many thanks to Ron for all the work he has done to get this project off the ground.
2. Community Garden: The garden has been tilled, and the new sign really stands out now. It appears to have been a successful year. We got a bill for trash collection for the year, evidently for the metal "trash" barrel that we have in the garden. This was a surprise to us. Not sure that there is ever much in the barrel, and people are still putting non-vegetative matter in the in the plastic barrels even though they are clearly marked. We may want to move the trash barrel away from the parking lot more into the interior of the garden. Need to look into this.
3. Tuftonboro Association Times Articles: Appreciate the work Joan has done to get these articles in each quarter. Please let Joan know if you think of someone/something that should be highlighted in future articles.

Old Business

1. Rules of Procedure:

- There were some minor edits:
 - a. **Definitions. A. The following change is made: Agriculture or Agricultural Operation:** "Agriculture" and "Agricultural Operation" mean any farming activity that involves the cultivation of plants or the raising of livestock **=** including animals or **poultry bees** as defined in RSA 21: 34-a.
 - b. *The dates in the document are changed to 11/06/2018.*
 - c. **Meetings. F. Place of Meetings and Hearings:** Meetings of the Agriculture Commission shall be specified in the posting. *There was a question about the need to clarify "posting." This is actually specified under C. Notice to Public of all Meetings:* Public notice of all meetings and hearings will be posted in two (2) public places (**Town bulletin board and Town website**) twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting. *Added the "where."*

- d. **Adoption.** These Rules of Procedure supersede and replace, in entirety, any previous rules of procedure previously adopted and are hereby adopted by the Tuftonboro ~~Conservation~~ **Agricultural** Commission at a lawfully called and posted meeting on the date specified below and are effective on and after that date.
- A motion was made and seconded and unanimously approved to accept the Rules and Procedures as corrected.
- 2. No additional Old Business

New Business

1. Setting goals for coming year:

- *Community Garden:*
 - a. We are still hoping to get a newsletter out for participants in the CG. The goal is to have it sent out when we notify people that they can sign up for plots. The intent is to let people know things we want to stress to keep the CG looking good: weeding plots and paths, putting weeding and other vegetative matter in barrels and trash only in the specified receptacle, the reason for not planting potatoes at this time, etc.
 - b. Still hoping to get bluebird boxes from the Boy Scouts. Have asked for 5.
 - c. Funding for a storage shed to be located adjacent to the CC is in the 2019 budget. Ron and Geoff will research possible sheds for consideration. We will use the shed to store the chipper, to be donated by Mike Haegar, tools (need donations), barrels from the CG, and storage tubs from the composting demo area.
 - d. Karen had previously suggested that we till or do something to prevent weeds from taking over the unsold plots. After discussion it was agreed that we should plant the unsold plot to annuals that would benefit pollinators.
 - e. Want to explore the opportunity to have a "harvest dinner" in conjunction with the CG.
- *Pollinator Garden:*
 - a. This has been a success, and actually the hyssop seems to be taking over.
 - b. We need to fill in with additional perennials. After we see what members have to donate from their gardens in the spring, we will supplement with plants we can purchase.
 - c. Need to follow-up and get a sign up explaining the benefits of perennial plantings to benefit pollinators.
 - d. A suggestion had been made about maybe having bees near the CG. Not sure whether we need to do this. Will talk to Adam Stockman as he has hives at Spiderweb.
- *Possible Seminars:*
 - a. Composting: Would like to do this in late winter/early spring when we can comfortably get outside to look at what the TAC has going and what Bill does at Spiderweb. Want it to be an information/education/sharing of folks to get people to understand the benefits of composting.
 - b. Forestry Practices: this was postponed from last year. Will be facilitated by Wendy Scribner, county extension forester. Late winter/ early spring when we can comfortably get outside to

look at some examples. To provide information on resources for people interested in managing their forested lands.

- c. Other possible seminars: possible morning coffee to share gardening tips and tricks; food safety. Look at what the state extension has to offer in the way of seminars.
 - *School Contacts/Projects:*
 - a. Old Butterfly Garden: Gina has been working on rehabbing the old butterfly garden with perennials. We have talked about putting in some apple trees in conjunction w/a grafting project of heirloom apples by Mike. Kim will talk w/the 5th grade teacher about a project in the spring. We will need to provide protection for whatever gets planted. Sue has some cages that might work.
 - b. Food Waste Composting: Kim will talk w/the principal and we will discuss what sort of program the school would be interested in, and we will develop an appropriate compost area adjacent to the school. Will need to be enclosed in a chain link fence area.
 - *Ag property inventory/Ag Business Directory:* Joan will continue to develop this list.
 - *Development of a Food Waste Project:* We will begin in January to develop a potential food waste demo/partner project that we will present to the camps and the Pine Cone to see who will be interested.
2. Additional Items:
- *Bat Houses:* Russ Bearenklau has donated two bat houses, one a single size and the other a condo. We will research the best exposure for mounting them and then discuss w/Jack the best places to mount them.
 - *Old Home Days:* We discussed this past year that we should do something for Old Home Days. Bill said that organization should begin sometime in January. We should plan to come up w/suggestions of what we could do and have someone from our group attend the meetings.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12/4/2018