

Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission

Minutes 03/05/2019

Selectmen's Office Town Hall

Present: Sue Wingate, Ron Sundquist, Mike Haeger, Jeff Blackett, Bill Marcussen, Kim Reed, and Joan Magrauth

Missing: Karen Nemeth

Guests: Bill and Adam Stockman.

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as read. Announced that Adam is taking over Spiderweb Garden and that Bill will be semi-retiring.

Correspondence:

Received a letter from Sue Weeks, Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees re driving on the path in the cemetery to access the compost demo site. Trustees appreciated that we are moving the compost area and will not need to transverse the cemetery. They are interested in possibly siting bluebird boxes along the edge of the cemetery. We also got information on the lawn care service for the cemetery.

Old Business:

Composting:

Ron – presented a drawing of the proposed relocation of the composting demo project. Discussion followed with input from Bill and Adam concerning the reconfiguration of the 4 plots along the cemetery border that will be partially used for the new composting area and how that may impact plowing, timing of plowing, and grading. Agreed that we would reconfigure the area to 4 ½ -sized plots and see how that flies. This year we will be moving the compost area and adding the garden shed. In the future Adam may change some of the ongoing activities that Bill has heretofore done: time and costs.

Geoff – Announced that the shed for tools, etc., is on track for delivery April 1st. Hopefully we can work on cn't been done by then.

Bluebird Boxes – We have about 20 boxes for use around the community garden, cemetery, and other places as appropriate. If we set them in pairs (5-15 feet apart) bluebirds will take one and swallows the other (are they listening). Ten boxes were made by the Boy Scouts, and we need to try and keep track of how they are used.

Bat Houses – We need to find out the best placement for one on the Town offices and one at the Town House.

Food Waste Composting / Athena Bradley – The largest Jora unit being purchased for the community garden requires daily turning to ensure mixing of the compost material. This ought to be easy as gardeners frequent their plots and can take a turn. Will need to organize work at the compost demo so that it doesn't all fall on Ron. Sue will work with Athena re the state permit for the food waste composting. We will get the

food waste composting going this year at the community garden and then get a project going at the Tuftonboro Central School next year.

New Business:

Apple tree Project at TCS: Kim and Mike discussed what needs to be done to get the project going, starting w/ an apple tasting in the fall with the 6th graders to choose which variety they like the best with planting the following spring.

Signs – We need to get signs prepared that will explain the composting demo and how people can participate and we need something similar for the pollinator garden.

Sign-up for the CG – Sue will get an update for the letter for the community garden sign-up as well as the reconfiguration of plots to Jackie ASAP.

Call-in Participation re TAC Meetings – Karen Nemeth had asked Sue whether we needed to include in the Rules and Procedures for TAC that we allowed phone participation at TAC meetings. Bill explained that while participation by phone is permissible for meetings, that that means is not acceptable to meet the quorum requirement. The group discussed the pros and cons of phone conferencing for meetings. While it is nice to have the additional participant, the process really slows down the meeting as every person speaking has to be identified and that people in the room and on the phone often end up talking over one another. Therefore, we prefer not to engage in conference calls for meetings unless absolutely necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted by /s/ Joan Magrauth