

Kingston Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes May 18, 2023

Attendance: Jean Landis Naumann, John Wheble, Barry Mathias, Karen Johnson

Guest: Sheryl Antoine

John called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

The minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting were approved (3-0).

The members discussed the changes to the Non-Commercial Farm Animal Regulations: items identified at the May 1 BOH public Hearing, updates from the Conservation Agent regarding wetlands, and correct placement of the penalties for loose animals as recommended by the Animal Inspector and Animal Control Officer.

Voted: to submit the updated regulations to the Board of Health for the June 5 public hearing (3-0)

Jean will send the updated regulations to the Board of Health.

John reported that Beth is working on a program about cheese-making from goat milk. John will continue to investigate a program on maple syrup making. Barry recommended a program on growing hot peppers (talk with vendor at Kingston Farmers' Market). Barry also suggested a program on canning and freezing fruits and vegetables. Inquiries will be made to the musicians at the market about attending the Ag Fair.

The members discussed the vendor list for the September Agricultural Fair and each will continue to recruit additional vendors. Jean will contact the Recreation Director for contact information for the Market.

John will ask for an appointment with the BOS to use the Town Green for the fair on September 10. He will also make arrangements with the police to close a portion of Green Street for the fair and ask Highway for barriers. John will request a police detail from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

The members discussed the Garden Surplus Initiative. The gazebo on the Town House lawn may be the ideal spot as it is screened and would prevent animal infiltration. Jean will discuss this with the town administration. Some sort of shelving would be needed.

The members discussed the recent sale of a large hay farm in Middleboro to the town.

The members also briefly discussed the community gardens in Abington run by a special group on a local farm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Landis Naumann