

Kingston Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes June 15, 2023

Attendance: Jean Landis Naumann, John Wheble, Barry Mathias, Karen Johnson, Rui Santos, Beth Corbett

Guest: Deb Mueller, Animal Inspector

John called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM

The minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting were approved (4-0).

John announced that the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the Non-Commercial Farm Animal Regulations, as amended, at their meeting June 5, 2023. Jean will contact the health agent for a copy of the final regulations.

John explained that the police chief is requiring 2 detail officers be hired if the Agricultural Fair is held on the old Town Green. Since the AgCom has insufficient funds to do this, the police chief recommended that the venue for the fair be changed to the Town House at 26 Evergreen Street where no police detail would be needed. After some discussion, the members agreed to try the fair at the Town House and John has asked Jean to represent the AgCom at the BOS meeting on 6/20 to request the change in venue

Voted: to ask the BOS to hold the September 10 agricultural fair at the Town House (4-0)

The members discussed possible vendors. Barry offered the use of his large tent. Others will bring pop-up canopies. Jean suggested having lawn games available such as corn hole. A braided rug may be donated for a raffle. New signs will be needed with the change in date and venue.

Voted: to authorize John to purchase several new signs for the fair (4-0)

Publicity needs to start in August and signs put up. Town House bathrooms will be available.

The produce sharing idea in the gazebo was met with some resistance from town officials but the COA director offered to host it.

The members discussed possible future programs to be offered to the community. Included would be a program on bees, native plants, gardening in general. 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. John has a friend who may be willing to talk about climate change and the effect on agriculture. Inquiries will be made to the musicians at the market about attending the Ag Fair.

Deb contacted the Recreation Department regarding vendors and will follow up. She has also contacted a goat farmer who does goat scaping. She investigated the goat yoga being offered on Pembroke Street and will provide information on the goat owner.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Landis Naumann

