

Minutes of Agriculture Commission Meeting 3/20/13

Small Meeting Room, Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Present: Deb Espinosa, Renee Cuprak, Bernard Block, Mitch Beauregard, and Alan Cahill

Minutes from Jan. 16, 2013 were read and accepted.

Old Business:

Hampton Farm Fair: July 14th 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Date and times confirmed for Fair and use of Community center.

Hampton Elementary School principal Elise is coordinating a poster contest at the school to design posters for the Farm Fair event. Commission will select winner from entries. Discussed displaying top 3-5 entries on the day of the fair. Will discuss a prize for winning entry at next meeting.

Deb will contact Fire and Ambulance departments about selling refreshments at Fair to raise funds for their departments. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, ice cream, beverages, etc. Renee will check the pricing on bulk rate mailing to entire town to publicize the Fair. Flyers for mailing will be printed at the town hall. Rabies certificates will be required for all animals that will be on display. Discussion about exhibits and prizes for fruits, vegetables, jams, jellies, photos, etc was initiated. Further discussion will be held at next meeting to see if it's feasible to incorporate into current Farm Fair timing and structure.

Commission budget: Budget should be completed and submitted to First Selectman's office by April 1, 2013. Renee will put together preliminary draft and send out to members via email.

Master Gardener Presentation: Deb will reach out to extension service to see if they have any Master Gardeners who would be interested and available to do a presentation in May.

New Business:

Farm Tours: Turtle Ledge may be interested in having an event. Maple Sugar House tour was a huge success. Will have further discussion around possible "Walktober" events

Announcements:

Deb and Renee will represent commission at Elementary Scholl Assembly to recognize Genevieve Rondeau for her award winning cabbage.

Connecticut Farm Bureau's 4th annual statewide conference is March 23rd. Agenda is focused on "Creating a Farm Business Plan". Mitch will represent the commission.

Three Niece Farm is sponsoring a 2 day clinic July 20-21 with critically acclaimed camelid trainer Marty McGee Bennett. "Camelidynamics" focuses on stress free respectful training techniques for handling, showing, vetting, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48

Respectfully submitted 3/25/13 – Mitch Beauregard