



Hollis Agricultural Commission Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Members in attendance: M. Post, D. Harmon, and R. Clark

Public in Attendance: Peter Baker, Hollis.

- Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.
- Public Input. Peter Baker addressed the commission with a question of best management practices (BMP's) with respect to raising livestock within wetland buffers. D. Harmon mentioned that the town has used the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines for BMP's on town-owned land. M. Post mentioned that both the Woodmont and Stefanowicz leases require the leasee to adhere to an NRCS approved management plan. The Stefanowicz RFP available on the town website includes the NRCS guidelines in the Appendix. A discussion ensued about whether to require private land owners to go beyond NH DES standards and adhere to NRCS agricultural guidelines. Peter Baker departed.
- Ongoing Business
 - Woodmont West trail signs are ready to be installed as the ground is thawing. M. Post will contact Mike Madden for help coordinating the installation at the locations previously approved by the Selectmen.
 - Three warrant articles to be presented at town meeting have potential impact on town owned land in current agricultural use.
 - Stefanowicz property subdivision to enable sale of the house lot. The Ag Comm has previously recommended this as it has no agricultural use and its sale would not impact the agricultural use of the surrounding land being leased.
 - Petition article 17 restricting discharge of firearms on town-owned land. The Ag Comm noted that the allowance for legal hunting provides farmers the ability to control animals and protect their crops if enacted. As such, the Ag Comm did not take a position on the article.
 - Petition article 19 requiring the town to allow firearm discharge on all town-owned land. The Ag Comm observed that if enacted this would likely violate conservation easements and existing agricultural leases. M. Post mentioned that the town attorney is currently reviewing the article and would have a legal opinion prior to Town Meeting.
 - As previously discussed, a small ad was placed in the March/April NH Farm Bureau "Communicator" publication. D. Harmon motioned to authorize \$240 for payment of the ad. Seconded by R. Clark. Approved 3-0-0
- New Initiatives:
 - *Living with Agriculture* awareness campaign. M. Post has received interest from a volunteer to help write an article for the Nashua Telegraph as an update to a 2017 article about the Woodmont West purchase. M. Post will contact the volunteer and D. Harmon will contact the Nashua Telegraph to confirm interest.

- Commission discussed the status of members; current and recruiting potential. M. Post will contact town hall to make sure Ag Comm openings are listed.
- M. Post motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on January 9, 2020. R. Clark, second, motioned passed 3-0-0.
- M. Post motioned to adjourn 8:39 pm. Harmon second, motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Post, Acting Secretary