



## Hollis Agricultural Commission Minutes

Thursday, January 9th, 2020

Members in attendance: M. Post, D. Petry, M. Madden, D. Harmon, C. Husk, and T. Hardy.

- Meeting called to order at 7:33pm.
- Stefanowicz Update:
  - House lot portion has been defined as just under 5 acres and will be subdivided out of land with the intent to be sold. T. Hardy suggested language is considered, as a condition upon the sale of the house, to restrict future owner from ability to complain in regard to neighbors' farming practices. M Post suggested a portion of proceeds of house lot should be provisioned to develop access road and culvert for farm use. D. Harmon suggested that the access should be appealing to future owners since it allows for public access to future trails.
  - RFP is close to being finished, open issues include:
    - -lease is structured so that the rental agreement considers the amount of property taxes.
    - -renewal option to allow lessor and lessee to continue without an add'l RFP if mutually agreed upon.
  - M. Post suggested drafting lease and RFP to include language that allows for proceeds of lot clearing to go to Lessee for property improvement and development plan. Net proceeds could go back to town.
  - M. Post motioned to conditionally approve Draft RFP, subject to town attorney's input on capital improvement language and perennial crop ownership, D. Harmon second, approved 6-0-0 January 27th it the goal for the RFP to be presented to the Board of Selectmen
- Potential 2020 Initiatives:
  - *Living with Agriculture* awareness campaign. D. Harmon outlined concerns such as trail signs / restrictions on pets. Ag Com needs to emphasize that the rules are federal and state, and that you don't want to restrict the ability to sell crops, which means pets are permitted, but they must stay on designated trails for food safety reasons. Flyer at town meeting or short presentation on trails could help spread awareness. Ag Com discussed the possibility and scope of trails behind Stefanowicz and concerns associated with such trails. Living with agriculture initiative to educate public on FSMA, benefits of town owned land that's preserved in agriculture, etc. Possible ways to increase awareness would be to distribute flyer at town meeting, at the polls, or insert leaflet in annual report.
  - Expand role as commission to advisory role to town staff. M. Post discussed an initiative to define Agri tourism for awareness. D. Petry stated that there is a fine line between defining farming for business vs Agri tourism and it's tough for town to define. If residents approach town with anything related to agriculture or farming perhaps there should be consultation with the Ag Comm for assistance.
  - Possibility of tax relief for farm buildings used for crop storage, on current use land, to old hay, etc. It would need to be fair on assessing across the board and would

encourage and promote agriculture. Town would have the right to inspect to ensure structure is used for intended purpose. A good goal for 2020.

- Potential Initiatives will be reviewed at next meeting
- M. Post motioned to go into non-public session under RSA 91-a:3, II(c). Harmon second, motion passed 6-0-0 and the commission went into non-public session at 9:05 pm.
- M. Post motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-a:3, III(c). Harmon second, motion passed 6-0-0 and the commission returned to public session at 9:33pm.
- Commission discussed the status of members; current and recruiting potential. Possibility of equine or hay representation on the commission could help diversify. The same could be said for Beaver Brook representation.
- M. Post motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on Dec 12th, 2019. D. Harmon, second, motioned passed 6-0-0.
- M. Post motioned to accept the non-public minutes, and to keep them sealed, for the commission meeting on Dec 12th, 2019. D. Harmon second, motion passed 6-0-0.
- M. Post motioned to adjourn 9:38pm. Harmon second, motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Madden, Secretary