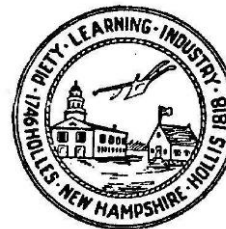


Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, March 11th, 2021



NAMES OF ATTENDEES

M. Post, T. Hardy, D. Harmon, M. Madden, C. Husk.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Unfinished Business

a. Woodmont West Grasshopper Sparrow Initiative

- I. Two to Three acres of watershed area currently are available for Grasshopper Sparrows. T. Dufresne mentioned that paragraph G.II, disturbances of soil surfaces, in the lease is what Nichols-Smith is citing that references protected species. T. Hardy mentioned that this aspect may have been investigated, and to consult Jessica to see what the National Heritage Board reviewed for Woodmont. If the NRCS did not recognize the species as present then there is probably not an issue. D. Harmon questioned when the sparrows appeared. T. Hardy thought after trees were removed. M. Post stated if Lessee is complying with NRCS requirements then there should not be an issue. C. Husk queried if perhaps what the Lessee is doing is increasing presence or beneficial to the species, and therefore beneficial. T. Hardy stated that paragraph J. references the proper entities that oversee such, and as long as the Lessee is complying with the terms then there should not be an issue. T. Hardy proposed that it may be in everyone's best interest that, as long as there is no formal complaint or request to the Town from Nichols-Smith of there being an issue, then we take no action.

b. Trail Signs

- I. M. Post stated we have the signs. T. Hardy stated the Nor'Easters will be installing three signs for us to use at Woodmont West. T. Hardy mentioned the trail committee is meeting with Sheryl to determine how trail status will be determined. Joe Vailor is in charge of trails for Nor'Easters and is the point of contact for them. T. Hardy stated if we have a designated trail, then we must put a picture up of the trail. T. Hardy can draft and print a new map. M. Post stated that he and M. Madden should proceed with installing the signs that already have posts installed.

c. Informational Initiative Regarding Stefanowicz

- I. The Lessee is not ready to provide updates, but requests the foot traffic and access concerns be addressed. Highlighting the progression of change is a good subject, e.g. to inform the community that trees will be cut, etc., as those activities could be perceived as undesirable. All-terrain vehicle access needs to be addressed as well. M. Post suggested meeting with the conservation commission to decide how and where signs that restrict traffic would go up. The location of the 4 parking spots requested by town with gate was discussed and is being planned.

d. Current Use Tax Reporting

- I. M. Post and M. Madden met with Connie. The Assessor's Office maintains a detailed spreadsheet and it's up to landowner to request additional information, if desired. M. Post queried whether we could include the expanded detail in the bills. There is a third party that generates the bills. T. Hardy outlined a scenario where a farmer is taxed at the same rate as a developer who purchased land. The developer could not be

maintaining or investing in the land but and gets the same tax rate of active farmer. M. Post stated it's up to the landowner to report changes that may benefit them. M. Post suggest awareness campaign; possibly a tri-fold that could be inserted into the tax bill or redraft the the current pamphlet.

II. New Business

a. Town Meeting

- I. M. Post stated there are two articles that may impact agriculture. The Town meeting is May15th. Article 16 bans use of guns on town land except for hunting. Article 17 basically opens up the property to anyone, e.g. Woodmont West could have unrestricted access even with FSMA. Article 16 should not affect the Ag Com. T. Hardy mentioned that town owned land that had previous restrictions could be affected. T. Hardy interprets that article 16 would allow hunting during all seasons for crows, squirrels, coyotes, etc. D. Harmon interprets article 17 as anyone could walk on to Stefanowicz or Woodmont and do any recreational activity. The Ag Com would have an interest in article 17. D. Harmon queried whether we would want to take a formal position on 17 and present at a town meeting. Conservation seems to be favoring article 17. M. Post suggested we draft a formal position to put forth to the Town.

b. Recruiting

- I.M. Post stated there is not much to report, but left a message with Dave Wadley. C. Husk mentioned Tim Glover could be a possibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Post motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on February 11th, 2021, D. Harmon second, motioned passed 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 8:50pm, D. Harmon second, motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Madden, Secretary