

Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, January 13, 2022



NAMES OF ATTENDEES

R. Clark, C. Quaine, T. Hardy, M. Post, D. Petry.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Hardy motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on December 9, 2021, M. Post second, motioned passed 5-0-0.

T. Hardy motioned to accept the non-public minutes for the commission meeting on December 9, 2021, M. Post second, motioned passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Tractor Parade/Luminaires Debrief

T. Hardy observed that the tractor parade went off smoothly. Having a police vehicle lead the parade in and around town center made organizing a safe event easier. M. Post observed that Kimber Harmon did an excellent job managing the construction, distribution and cleanup of the luminaires and that the Boy Scouts and parents worked exceptionally hard the day of the event distributing and lighting them. C Quaine observed that the Scouts receive service badges for such volunteer activities. D. Petry suggested having the SB/Town send a letter of commendation to the Scouts recognizing their valuable contribution to a successful event.

2022 INITIATIVES

Agricultural Conservation Land Protection

M. Post stated that the Conservation Commission (CC) will be having a public hearing on Feb 2 for the purchase of approximately seventy acres between Richardson and Van Dyke roads (the "Law Property" - MBLU 014-035). The Commission noted that there are 25-30 acres in current agricultural production (hay) but that other crops could be produced on the property. A discussion entailed with a consensus that portions of the property are attractive for long-term agricultural use. T. Hardy suggested that, if the land is acquired, the Town have an agricultural assessment performed that includes delineation and typing of the wetlands. M. Post will attend the public hearing and report back status.

"Living with Agriculture" Publicity and Public Education

The Commission discussed creating an article for publication in local newspapers highlighting the success the town has had preserving agriculture, ensuring land conservation while providing appropriate public access for other passive recreation uses. The article could build upon a prior years' Nashua Telegraph article by providing an update on Woodmont and discussing the agricultural restoration of Stefanowicz. M. Post will attempt to find a volunteer for writing.

T. Hardy observed that the town has many new homeowners who are unfamiliar with encountering farm equipment while driving on town roads. The Commission discussed updating its public education brochure on tractor road safety and redistributing it. It was also suggested that it be reviewed with the police chief and officers. M. Post will obtain the previous brochure in electronic form and review it at a future meeting

D. Petry mentioned that the SB was considering restoring the October Apple Festival recently stopped by the Woman's club and that funding might be considered. A discussion ensued about the history of the Apple Festival and the challenges to putting on such an event. T. Hardy mentioned that one challenge is that there no longer a working commercial apple peeler in town. Discussion of other dates, perhaps coincident with Old Home Days, were discussed. No actions taken at this time.

Woodmont Signs

Public access control signs are planned to go up in March when the ground un-freezes.

ENTERING INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Hardy made the motion to enter into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-a:3 II (c, d). M. Post second, motion passed 5-0-0 and the commission entered non-public session at 8:27pm.

RETURNING TO PUBLIC SESSION

M. Post motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-a:3 II (d). R. Clark second, motion passed 5-0-0 and the commission returned to public session at 9:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 9:00, R. Clark second, motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Post, Acting Secretary