

Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, March 10, 2022



NAMES OF ATTENDEES

T. Hardy, CJ Husk, M. Post. Visitor: A. Lavoie

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

Visitor A. Lavoie attended and thanked the Ag Comm for the support he has received from the Town for his farming activities. The Ag Comm responded with its own thanks for the care he has taken restoring and improving the agricultural soils and production of property while adhering to the conditions and terms of the NRCS approved conservation management plan for the property.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION LAND PROTECTION

Law Property

M. Post stated that the Conservation Commission has completed the purchase of the Law property. As part of the purchase, the sellers have requested a conservation easement be created for the property that amongst other things, permits agricultural use of the property. T. Dufresne has requested Ag Comm support for creating the easement and identifying appropriate agricultural use. C. Quaine has expressed some interest in supporting effort. The Ag Comm tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Stefanowicz

T. Dufresne forwarded a copy of a well designed, multi-year forest and invasive management plan for the entire Stefanowicz property from licensed forester Eric Radloff of Full Circle Forestry. Eric, Chair of the NH Hillsborough County Conservation District, has extensive experience in developing forest management plans and has previously worked with the current lessee on such plans. T. Dufresne will raise the topic of changing oversight of the forest management plan to the Ag Comm at a future Cons Comm meeting. Topic will be discussed at future CC and Ag Comm meetings.

Woodmont

The Woodmont annual review was held attended by D. Harmon and M. Post from the Ag Comm. While the review completed with the farmer satisfying its requirements, G. Coffey from NS repeated his previous request that the town halt farming operations on a 4-acre parcel of the land. The farmer declined. G. Coffey said NS has the right to demand this action based upon the easement. D. Harmon and M. Post disagreed with his opinion. Afterwards D. Harmon and M. Post met with Town Administrator L. Radke and requested that SB representative D. Petry be informed and recommended that Town Attorney Drescher review the easement. M. Post sent the easement, lease and information to Attorney Drescher, and a meeting has been scheduled for March 11 with D. Petry, L. Radke, M. Post, T. Dufresne and Attorney Drescher.

“LIVING WITH AGRICULTURE” PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Newspaper Article

The Ag Comm discussed feedback on a draft outline of a potential follow-on article of a prior years' Nashua Telegraph article highlighting the success the town has had preserving agriculture, ensuring land conservation while providing appropriate public access for other passive recreation uses. T. Hardy suggested including additional topics that help townspeople understand that preserving agriculture means living with the occasional noise and odors from normal agricultural activities. M. Post will create a revised outline.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Post motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on February 17, 2022, T. Hardy second, motion passed 3-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 8:25, T. Hardy second, motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Post, Acting Secretary