

Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, May 12th, 2022



NAMES OF ATTENDEES

M. Post, T. Hardy, D. Harmon, M. Madden, D. Petry, R. Clark

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Woodmont West

The Ag Comm discussed the Nichols Smith Woodmont site visit. The consensus from attendees including NH Audubon, the USDA NRCS, NH Fish & Game and the State of NH Agricultural Commissioner is that the farmer has been an excellent steward of the land and there is no need to restrict any land from farming activities. No further action at this time. D. Petry suggested that Lori Radke draft a site visit summary to document the discussions, to date, to include summary in town file.

Stefanowicz Property

Forest Management Plan: Lessee stated logging in lease area will not commence until October due to long eared bat. D. Petry queried whether the parcel that's harvested for wood was part of the lease agreement. Lessee stated that it was. M. Post questioned whether there would need to be an tax abatement or a bond for the timber tax. D. Petry agreed to pursue.

Law Property

The HCC mentioned that the Town/former owners are looking for someone to hay. The Ag Comm noted there are few remaining farmers in Hollis who actively hay. M. Post has two leads, one of which seems to have potential. D. Petry stated that haying is managed by conservation on an annual basis, there would not need to be formal lease as likely no compensation would be involved.

Woodmont West

M. Post sated that the Town signs regarding food safety were installed, and that the trail location will be changing slightly next year. M. Post drafted a letter to notify the N'orEasters of the need to restrict trail use during the growing season. T. Hardy stated that the letter should state that snowmobile signs need to be down by March 30th, and the club needs to communicate that the trails are not authorized for use after that.

LIVING WITH AGRICULTURE

M. Post is working on an article about the benefits of Woodmont and Stefanowicz. The article will emphasize the food safety aspect and the need for managing shared use of the land. Also to be noted is the preservation of rural character and the long history of farming on the Stefanowicz .

M. Post stated the Hillsborough County Conservation District Legislative event is scheduled to be held at Woodmont for the end of July is still planned and is a good opportunity for publicity. The Ag Comm discussed the opportunity and will participate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Hardy motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on April 14th, 2022, M. Madden second, motioned passed 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 8:24, T. Hardy second, motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Madden, Secretary