

# Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, February 9th, 2023



## NAMES OF ATTENDEES

M. Post, T. Hardy, R. Clark, M. Madden (phone)

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### Law Property

The agricultural assessment has been completed. M. Post will have C. Quaine distribute to the Ag Comm. The joint working group will continue discussions with the Conservation Commission developing a recommendation for the Select Board.

### Stefanowicz

Logging in the lower portions of the property has been paused due to warm weather and wetness. Logging may be able to be restarted in April.

### Potential 2023 Initiatives

The Ag Comm discussed two potential 2023 initiatives.

One entails advocacy at the state level to deal with the difficulty of obtaining NH driver's licenses for seasonal agricultural workers. Current law allows foreigners with work visas who are licensed in their home countries to drive in NH for up to 60 days. However, many foreign agricultural workers are here for a much longer time and are then required to obtain a regular driver's license to operate tractors and other farm equipment on public roads. While that in theory may be feasible, recent RealID/citizenship requirements make it difficult to such foreign workers to do so. The NH senate has passed a bill to address this Catch-22 and the House is studying it. A little research followed by education of our local/regional representatives might be helpful and warranted.

A second entails leveraging Hollis' success at conserving land through agricultural leases at a manageable cost to taxpayers. Other communities grapple with the cost of conservation and a "How to Guide" on using agricultural lands to impact local preservation might be well received by the conservation and agricultural communities statewide.

The Ag Comm will discuss next steps on these potential initiatives at a future meeting.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Post motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on January 12, 2023, T. Hardy second, motioned passed 3-0-1.

## ADJOURNMENT

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 8:45pm, T. Hardy second. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Post, Acting Secretary