

# Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, January 11, 2024



## NAMES OF ATTENDEES

J. Begin, R. Clark, J. Dufresne, T. Hardy, M. Post, C. Quaine

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### NRCS ACEP-ALE Grant HCC Joint Working Group

Q. Quaine and M. Post attended January's HCC JWG meeting. Initial progress has been good. M. Post and B. McQuilkin from HCC met with Tracey Boisvert from the USDA NRCS to get some guidance and have questions answered about the Entity and Parcel application processes. The town goals for agricultural land protection seem to be a good fit for the ACEP criteria and Tracey was very encouraging.

The Entity application for the Town seems straightforward. If approved, the Town will have five years to apply for parcel grants. The Parcel Application is more cumbersome, requiring detailed information about the parcel and current owners. C. Quaine is reviewing portions of the parcel application closely to understand the information requirements and start pulling together available information. T. Hardy suggested Donna Juneau in the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office can help with some of the parcel information requirements. M. Post is working with Town Hall putting together the Entity Application. The JWG meets the second Thursday of the month @ 6:30 in the upstairs meeting room in Town Hall.

### NH Agricultural Emergency Relief Fund

The State of NH is considering a bill (Senate Bill 348) to create an emergency relief fund to help farmers who suffered crop damage from 2023's extreme cold and wet events. T. Hardy states that this is supported by a UNH Coop Ext survey that documents over \$10M in fruit and vegetable crop damages respectively, with the large majority of those losses in Hillsborough County.

M. Post stated that it appears to have strong bipartisan sponsorship and support. M. Post questioned if any size farm can participate. T. Hardy believed any size farm pays that reports income (Schedule F or otherwise) would be eligible. T. Hardy stated that there is an upcoming hearing on the bill and that the NH Ag Commissioner Jasper is working on how the funds will be distributed. It is expected to move through process to a vote in May and believed that Senator Avarad is already aware of it.

M. Post suggested the Ag Comm should monitor the bills process and consider writing a letter of support if appropriate at a later date.

### Annual Report

The Ag Comm reviewed the draft annual report previously distributed. No changes were proposed. M. Post moved to accept the annual report. C. Quaine seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

### Approve Minutes

M. Post moved to approve minutes as previously written and distributed. C. Quaine seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

### ENTERING INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION

R. Clark made the motion to enter into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-a:3 II (d). T. Hardy second, motion passed 6-0-0 and the commission entered non-public session at 8:17pm.

**RETURNING TO PUBLIC SESSION**

R. Clark motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-a:3 II (d). M. Post second, motion passed 6-0-0 and the commission returned to public session at 8:29pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 8:30, R. Clark second, motion passed 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Post, Acting Secretary