



Minutes

Hollis Agricultural Commission

Thursday, August 10, 2017

Members in attendance: D. Petry, D. Harmon, T. Hardy, A. Pitarys, M. Post

Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm.

- The board discussed the need for NRCS to give a quick approval on potential bidders plan for the Stefanowicz lease. Will need to find out if this will be free or a paid service. If paid the board can use money from the budget.
- The NRCS conservation plans can take years for approval this will need for a change in the town lease document allowing for the first 1-3 years to be lenient on the lessee paying back on improvements.
- D. Petry suggest Heather Foley of NRCS (if willing) give a one page assessment on the lease proposals.
- The board discussed using a "best value" grading system for the working in selecting a lessee.
- Some ideas raised for the point scale included giving higher points for residents, the willingness for using conservation programs with NRCS, etc. Also the need to present these criterias in the notice to bid
- The board discussed organic practices and the need for 7 year fallow or no chemicals.
- The board discussed advertising the 25 year lease on multiple platforms (Facebook, Farm Bureau, Weekly Market Bulletin, etc.
- D. Harmon discussed there being 1,000 extra tractor safety brochures and some spots to distribute such as Old Home Days
- Discussed public access concerns relating to safety, FSMA and general knowledge. The board talked about the need for public education on these matters by getting signs in place with the help of the trails committee. They will help set trail markers and appropriate signage.
- Moved by D. Harmon and seconded by M. Post to accept public minutes from June 22, 2017 meeting as written; Motion passed 5-0-0.
- Moved by A. Pitarys and seconded by T. Hardy to accept non-public minutes from May 11, 2017 meeting as written; Motion passed 5-0-0.
- Moved by M. Post and seconded by D. Harmon to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0-0, and meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 7:30pm.

Respectively submitted by A. Pitarys, Secretary

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and who needs to be provided with reasonable accommodation, please call the Town Hall (465-2780) at least 72 hours in advance so that arrangements can be made.