

TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON  
Agricultural Commission

2011-2012  
Ronald Morales, Chairman  
Brad Rice, Vice Chairman

**MINUTES**  
April 14, 2011 Meeting  
7:00 pm

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 9**

**AGENDA:**

- ◆ Attendance
- ◆ Approval of March minutes
- ◆ Board Business
- ◆ Adjourn

The regular meeting of the Agricultural Steering Committee was called to order at 7:15 pm.

**ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. White called the roll.

**MEMBERS:** Mr. C. Castonguay, Mr. B. Rice, Mr. S. White and Recording Secretary Barbara White.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no revisions to the March minutes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rice **MOVED** to approve the minutes of March 10 as presented. Mr. White seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Agricultural Commission Members**

Mrs. White reported all the members of the Agricultural Committee recommended to the Selectmen for approval as members of the Agricultural Commission had been accepted.

**Election of Officers**

Mrs. White ensured Mr. Rice had signed his appointment at the Town Clerk's Office, and asked if the members present wanted to go forward with the election of officers.

**MOTION:** Mr. Castonguay **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Morales as Chairman. Mr. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Castonguay **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Rice as Vice Chairman. Mr. White seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

### Rules of Procedure

Mrs. White noted that Mr. Morales was working on a version of Rules of Procedure for the Commission, but he had not given her his version to distribute. She handed out a version of what she had gleaned from the Planning Board Rules of Procedure could be useful to the Board, but said that Mr. Morales' version would most likely be different and be the one they would be deciding on. She thought they could get some idea of what they were going to look like by reviewing her version.

### Kick-Off Meeting

Mrs. White had been asked to find out what dates would be available in June or July for the Town Hall, and had found that every Saturday and Sunday, with the exception of June 18, was available. Later in the discussion it was ascertained it might be best to have the meeting on a Thursday evening, perhaps the regular meeting night.

There was much discussion on when to hold the kick-off meeting and what the Commission should include at that meeting. A date in June was originally selected, but upon further discussion the members thought perhaps they were scheduling the kick-off meeting too soon for them to even know what they wanted to present to the residents and how to attract them to come in the first place.

They were concerned about how to get the word out to people about the meeting, and discussed inserts in the Carriage Town News. Mrs. White had researched that before and reminded the members that it would cost \$142.50 for a minimum of 2500 pieces in the Carriage Towne News and whatever it cost for paper and printing of those 2,500 pieces. The final discussion was perhaps an ad in the newspaper or to see if they could get something about it under Community News for free.

They also worried that June or July would be summer vacation and a lot of residents would not be available to attend. The members thought the kick-off meeting could be held in September. The kids would be back in school and families would most likely not be on vacation.

Some of the things they did discuss included:

- At the March meeting, Mr. Morales indicated he could ask if State Agricultural Commissioner Lorraine Merrill would be available to give a short talk at this kick-off meeting. The members thought it would be a very good idea to have her, or someone else from her office if she was not available, to come.
- They thought the East Kingston farmers should attend, but were unsure how they could make this happen.
- Mr. Rice thought he could get the owner from *Sweet Baby Vineyards* to come and speak.
- All thought Deb Marston should be there. Mrs. White thought perhaps she could bring one of her goats.
- Mr. Rice could contact Sara Zoe, publicist from *Eating Local* about attending.
- Mrs. White will inquire if Mr. Quintal would be interested in attending from a Conservation perspective, perhaps regarding conserving the Town's open spaces by promoting farming.
- They thought it would be good to ask Mr. Walker from Monahan's to come and speak about his important agriculture is, and thought perhaps Mr. Morales could contact him.
- Mr. White suggested someone from the South Hampton Agricultural Commission could speak about what they have accomplished in their town. He could contact them.

They also discussed taking some items from the first list they had distributed of things they could do to help the Town and focus on just those items instead of trying to cover everything at once. The items discussed were:

- ***Creating a favorable interface between Town growth and farming*** - educating people about the benefits of keeping farming in the Town.
- ***Creating a level of food security through utilization of our local farm system*** - encouraging local businesses to utilize the produce from the local farms.

- *Act as a link between residents with farmland to lease and farmers looking to lease that land* - (They thought Mr. Morales could speak to this. )
- *Impacting children at the elementary school level* - implement some projects to get them interested in farming.

### Questionnaire

Mr. White had developed a questionnaire for distribution at the farmers market in Exeter. Members reviewed it and only added a line asking them to state where they were located and how far they would be willing to travel to participate. Mr. White will e-mail to the members . It will be reviewed further at the May meeting.

Letter to Mr. Walker - Mrs. White had sent a letter to Mr. Walker of Monahan Farms asking him to the May meeting. She had not had a reply from him as of yet.

Acres in Town - Mrs. White had been asked to obtain a list of properties by acreage, and had contacted the Selectmen's Office for that information. She had done a preliminary count, and there are approximately 155 properties having 5+ acres.

Movies - The members talked about 3 full length movies they thought would be good to have in their library. They are: *Food, Inc.*; *The Future of Food*; and *Fresh*. Mrs. White will investigate costs.

Books - Mr. Morales had suggested two books be purchased for the Agricultural Commission's library. Mrs. White distributed the information to the members. They thought they would be good information to have and told Mrs. White to go ahead and order them.

Maple Weekend - Mr. Rice noted there were approximately 200 people who came through to see his operation and he had sold 18 gallons of syrup and 10 pounds of maple candy.

Next Meeting - The next meeting is scheduled for May 12 at the Pound School.

### ADJOURN

**MOTION:** Mr. Castonguay **MOVED** to Adjourn. Mr. Rice seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara White

Recording Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_