

Durham Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2015
7:00 pm, 3rd floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Members: Warren Herzig, Fred Mastele, Roger Passavant, David Zemelsky

Alternates: Dick Porter, Joe Pasquale, Phyllis Naples

Seating of Alternates: Joe Pasquale was seated for Melissa Greenbacker

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Fred Mastele at 7:01 pm and roll call was taken.
- 2) Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Joe Pasquale to accept the July 21, 2015 Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Phyllis Naples to accept the June 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Public Comment

Sue White was in attendance and reported that the Conservation Commission had received a letter from a non-Durham resident raising concerns regarding the White's farm property. The concerns were that the haying of the fields was disrupting the nesting habits of the bobolink, a bird that migrates to White's Farm.

Roger and Dick had attended the Conservation Commission meeting and reported that the Commission had discussed the matter and had planned to send a letter to the Greenbackers asking that they not hay the fields at White's Farm any earlier than August 15, which would allow the bobolink ample time to nest.

A long conversation followed among the Ag Commission members. The consensus was that anyone who knows anything about proper haying practices knows that you cannot wait until August 15. It was reported that the Greenbackers had already received the letter from the Conservation Commission and were quite displeased.

Joe wondered if, possibly, either State or Federal Agencies might produce literature on "Best Management Practices for Hay Fields?"

Warren recommended meeting with the Conservation Commission to discuss the matter. Fred is to contact Rick Huntley.

Sue White closed by asking the Ag Commission to continue to promote "common sense use of land."

5) Old Business

“Durham-Grown” Sign

Roger supplied the Commission with two design possibilities for the “Durham-Grown” sign. Based on Dick’s suggestion, we have added “since 1708” to the original design. The Commission decided to add that date to the lower right corner of the sign, directly below the word “grown.”

Guilford Road Properties

Fred reported that he had e-mailed Laura Francis, but had not yet heard back from her. He said he would keep the Commission posted.

Coginchaug River

Warren reported that samplings were still being taken. However, he was no longer actively involved in that sampling. He said the results would be discussed at the August meeting of the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District and that he would share those results with us.

Plan of Conservation and Development

Joe reported that there was no new news on the POCD.

Deerfield Farm

Fred reported on the status of the Deerfield Farm well. He read a report from the Roger Craig Well Service Company outlining their recommendations for what should be done to the well. There were questions from Commission members as to whether the Board of Selectmen would authorize the expense of implementing the recommendations. There was some discussion that some Ag Commission members should attend the next BOS meeting.

6) New Business

Fred reported on two items: First, that the State Legislature did not rescind any of Governor Malloy’s vetoes. Second, that he had spoken with Vivian Caturano of J.C. Farm, who was interested in finding someone to hay a parcel of land she has (approximately 10 acres).

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Phyllis Naples. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.