

**Durham Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15th, 2015
7:00 pm, 3rd floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

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

Alternates: Phyllis Naples, Dick Porter

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Fred Mastele at 7:03 pm and roll call was taken.
- 2) Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Roger Passavant to accept the September 15th, 2015 Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Motion was made by Melissa Dziurgot and seconded by Phyllis Naples to accept the August 18th, 2015 Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5) Old Business

Invitation to Board of Selectmen

Fred handed out a copy of a letter he had drafted to the Board of Selectmen and the Town's Tax Assessor. The letter invited the BOS and Assessor John Philip to the October 20th, 2015 meeting of the Durham Agricultural Commission to discuss the taxation of hay, feed and bedding at Durham equine facilities.

The Commission briefly discussed the letter. All felt it was excellent and should be sent to all parties immediately.

Roger made a motion declaring the letter content was excellent, and authorizing Fred to send the letter immediately. The motion was seconded by Warren. The motion passed unanimously.

Durham Grown Signs

Roger reported on the status of Durham Grown signs. Due to budgetary limitations, we can only do four of the seven signs this year, and will have to wait till next year to do the remaining three. The Commission discussed which four locations should be installed first. It was decided that they should be: both ends of Route 17, the southern end of Route 79, and the southern end of Route 77. Roger and Dick will plan some time for installation.

Guilford Road Properties

Dick reported that he and Roger had attended the last Board of Selectmen meeting to ask about the status of the Guilford Road properties. The Commission then had a long discussion regarding the involvement of the NRCS and the Durham Ag Commission with these two properties. Topics included how the Porters maintain their property, the maintenance by the State of the Durham Meadows, and the work that had been completed by the State at White's Farm. David raised the possibility of organizing a work party

at the properties in early November, based on the tentatively scheduled appearance of the Board of Selectmen at the October 20th, 2015 Ag Commission meeting. David was interested in getting the opinion of the NRCS in person. He will contact Seth Lehrman of the NRCS about this. Roger and Dick said they would be happy to meet with David and Seth to walk the properties. A tentative date of Sunday, November 8th was set for the work party.

Coginchaug River

Warren reported that the water sampling was complete for this year. He once again reported that, with heavy rainfalls, they are still registering high coliform levels.

POCD

Joe was not in attendance, so there was no report on Town of Durham POCD.

Deerfield Farm

Dick reported that the UV system for the well at Deerfield Farm had passed the Town vote. Laura Francis said the system should be ordered the next day and that it should be installed within a month. David wondered if the Ag Commission should send a letter to the BOS on behalf of Melynda Naples confirming that Melynda should not have to pay for the annual maintenance of the UV system since it is being installed after she signed her lease agreement with the Town.

6) New Business

“An Evening in White”

Dick reported on an event that had been held at the Wimler property – “An Evening in White.” The proceeds of the event go to charity. Dick had suggested to the event organizers that perhaps one of the charities could be the starting of a Durham Farmers Legal Defense Fund.

Whites Farm / Bobolinks

Melissa reported that her father, Joe Greenbacker, had attended the Conservation Commission meeting and that they had agreed that haying of Whites Farm could begin on July 15th without disturbing the nesting habits of the bobolinks.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Phyllis Naples and seconded by Warren Herzig. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.