

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Durham Agricultural Commission**  
**(Organizational Meeting)**  
**September 19, 2011**

Commission members present: David Carroll, James Bubar, Karen Bishop, Theresa Walker, Suzanne MacDonald, Bonnie McDermott, Vincent Dell'Ova, Karleen Del'Ova, Albert LaRoche, David Potter, Ellen Karelitz

Others present: Raymond LaRoche

I. Introductions – Members introduced themselves and briefly explained their interest in joining the Agricultural Commission.

II. Discussion of Member Goals for the Agricultural Commission – Members expressed interest in working on increasing awareness of local agriculture and its availability for consumers, the connection between local agriculture and local economic development, supporting and encouraging community gardens, developing a definition of agriculture for the master plan and land use regulations, food security and insecurity in town, the quality of the food supply, reviewing land use regulations to identify points of friction between gardening and farming and the regulations, and an inventory of local agricultural activity both large and small.

Members spent a bit of time discussing how to inventory agricultural activity in town and how to define agriculture. Walker will draft a statement for inclusion in the Friday Update and for posting at the Swap Shop, Town Clerk's offices, etc. which asks residents about their farming and gardening activity.

III. Review of Relevant Statutes – Walker referred members to the state statute enabling local Agricultural Commissions, NH RSA 674.

IV. Review of Resource Materials – Walker distributed copies of an article from NH Town and City magazine that provides an overview of Agricultural Commissions and examples of the work being done by other Ag Comms in the state. She mentioned that she has many resources and will gladly share with group.

V. Houskeeping Items – Walker had drafted by-laws for the group to review and will distribute them via email and regular mail. She will check with Jen Berry regarding member appointments. A slate of officers was drafted and action will be taken at the next meeting. The slate is Walker as Chair, Ray LaRoche as Vice Chair, Vincent Dell'Ova as Treasurer, and James Bubar as Secretary. Walker will check with the Town Council regarding Ray LaRoche's appointment.

VI. Other Business – The next meeting date was set for October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Walker will reserve meeting space.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes produced by Theresa Walker