

## **Durham Agricultural Commission**

11 April 2022

Durham Town Hall Chambers

### **Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Theresa Walker (Chair), Ray LaRoche (Vice Chair), Elle Lonske (Town Council Rep)  
Paul Rasmussen (Planning Board Rep),  
Lee Alexander, Anton Bekkerman, John Carroll, Bryan Cassidy, Ellen Karelitz, Dave  
Langley, Alberto Manalo, Holly Philbrick, and Dan Winans

Members absent: (none)

Visitors: Jennifer Wilhelm (Fat Peach Farm)

### **1. New Business**

A. Minutes from the March 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Accepted with no changes.

B. Correspondence

- Chair mentioned that the Durham Farmers Market is moving to the new Downtown parking lot at 66 Main St.

C. Review of the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Foodshed Meeting

1. Chair provided a brief summary of what was discussed.

2. Brochure/website

- Lee Alexander mentioned that he was willing to facilitate compiling a list of farms, products, services, etc.

- Ray LaRoche mentioned that the brochure that the Lee AgComm published is a good template.

- It was also recommended that the publication be widely distributed, including the use of websites. There was considerable discussion about the overall design, and the pros and cons of printed vs. digital formats.

- Elle Lonske volunteered to help create a suitable design using “photoshop”.

- Ray suggested that we keep it simple, and produce three separate brochures (i.e., one for each town).

D. Planning for Farm” Day (20 August 2022)

- This year (2022) Farm Day will be expanded to include the towns of Durham, Lee, and Madbury (Oyster River Farm Day).

- Ray LaRoche attended the recent Town of Lee AgComm meeting and reported they are interested in participating.

- Jennifer Wilhelm (Madbury) clarified that it will be a one-day event with at least one “host” farm from each town. Locations include:

Lee – Demeritt Hill

Madbury – Fat Peach Farm

Durham – LaRoche Farm

- Chair confirmed that Durham AgComm has a budget to produce a poster for all three towns (i.e., “Oyster River Farm Day”).

- Ideally, it will be possible to finalize the participating farms and list of events by 1 July.

E. List of farm and garden events in Durham, Lee and Madbury

- Chair will collect from Lee and Madbury, and Anton for UNH.

- A calendar will be produced.

## **2. Old Business**

### **A. AgComm Initiatives**

1. Memorial Day Parade – Will not be held this year.
2. Bee-Friendly Program – Lee Alexander reported that in addition to adding more beehives at Emery Farm, there will be several new beekeepers in Durham, Lee and Madbury. He will assist in equipment set-up and installation of Nucleus beehives.
2. Food Friendly Yard – Ellen Karelitz mentioned there was a new request for a sign, but is not certain that this initiative needs to be continued.
3. Garden and Farm Mentors – Brian Cassidy reported on a successful pruning workshop that was held in Lee.
4. Durham Farm Day (20 August 2022) [discussed under Agenda Item 1.C.]

B. Farmers' Markets – Chair suggested having a table at the Farmer's Market in July to promote Oyster River Farm Day.

D. Land Stewardship Subcommittee – John Carroll reported on the Spruce Hole Bog initiative. He also mentioned the initiatives on private property that resulted from the Doug Tallamy presentation.

D. Community Gardens – Ellen Karelitz is no longer on the Board of Directors.

### **3. Other Business**

- Bryan Cassidy mentioned that the Conservation Commission is interested in a late fall cider press.
- Chair stated that she is interested in compiling a list of what is available within the Oyster River Foodshed the way of farm supplies and equipment (what, who, where, etc.). Elle, Alberto, and Anton will help compile.
- Anton Bekkerman provided a brief update on the two grant proposals that he is preparing related to
  - Funding to print farm day materials (to Farm Credit Bureau)
  - Civic/University Community Partnership (to NSF)

Next AgComm meeting: 9 May 2022

### **4. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm**

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Recorded by Lee Alexander