

## **Durham Agricultural Commission**

13 June 2022

7:00pm, Durham Town Hall

### **Meeting Minutes**

Members present Ray LaRoche (Vice Chair)  
Lee Alexander, John Carroll, Bryan Cassidy, Ellen Karelitz, Dave Langley, Ellie Lonske (Town Council Rep) and Paul Rasmussen (Planning Board Rep), Anton Bekkerman, and Dan Winans

Members absent: Theresa Walker (Chair), Alberto Manalo, and Holly Philbrick

Visitors: none

### **1. New Business**

A. Minutes from May Meeting - approved with no revisions

B. Correspondence

Brian Cassidy briefly explained the purpose of the Aldo Leopold story benches. The intent for this initiative is for people to communicate and work together as a community to build benches that can be used and enjoyed. He plans to submit an announcement for the Friday Update. Ray LaRoche suggested that an example of the bench be constructed and placed in the Town Hall.

C. Report on the May Foodshed Meeting

Lee Alexander and Ray LaRoche provided a summary of what was discussed.

There were two main topics:

- 1) Updating a listing of what is being locally grown (who, what, where, when, etc.)
- 2) Ways for sharing information and resources between local farmers.

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

Vice-chair introduced the three-page description that Theresa Walker prepared. At this stage, it still needs to be determined what farms will participate and what activities/events are planned within the three towns (Durham, Lee, and Madbury). There was discussion about what might be done again (or some new activities) at LaRoche Farm. A description of all planned activities needs to be finalized within the next seven days so that it can be submitted to the printer.

### **2. Old Business**

A. AgComm Initiatives

1. Bee Friendly Program – Lee Alexander reported that “No-mow May” was successful – mostly.
2. Food Friendly Yard – Ellen Karelitz stated this program is still active.
3. Garden and Farm Mentors – Brian Cassidy reported on his mentorship activities.
4. Durham Farm Day (20 August 2022) – [was discussed in Agenda Item 1D.]

B. Farmers' Markets – Began on 7 June 2022 and is located at new downtown parking lot.

D. Land Stewardship Subcommittee – John Carroll reported that a Native Plant Tour will be held on 13 August 2022. It will be organized by Tom Brightman (Durham's Land Stewardship Director).

E. Community Gardens – Ellen Karelitz reported that a workday was recently held. There are ~85 participants. Woodchucks continue to be a challenge.

### **3. Other Business**

A. none

Next AgComm meeting: 11 July 2022

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:45pm

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Recorded by Lee Alexander