

Meeting Minutes
Durham Agricultural Commission
May 8, 2023
Work Session

Committee Members Present: Bryan Cassidy, Ellen Karelitz, John Carroll, Alberto Manalo, Ray LaRoche, Lee Alexander, Ellie Lonske, Dan Winans, Anton Bekkerman, Dave Langley, Theresa Walker

Committee Members Absent: Paul Rasmussen, Holly Philbrick

I. New Business

A. Approval of April meeting minutes – Alexander had additional information to add to the minutes, which he will provide to Walker.

B. Vote on Commission and Chair and Vice Chair positions – Bekkerman moved to nominate Walker to continue serving as Chair and LaRoche to continue serving as Vice Chair. Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Commission Members discussed potential new initiatives, listed below.

OR Foodshed – next steps:

- Keep distributing map
- Combine Ag Comm brochure with map
- Where are people eating from?

Cooperation with other Agricultural Commissions

- Meet with other Ag Comms to learn fresh ideas
- Ag Comms working together across the state to strengthen local agriculture

Get UNH students involved – “voice of the future”

- Participation tied to class assignment and meeting in central location

Food security

- Making connection between local food production and food security

Cooperative food production

- Assess level of interest in Durham for increasing backyard food production and cooperative food production
- Work with UNH students on a survey/assessment
- What do residents envision cooperative food production is/looks like?
- Meadows community gardens as a demonstration site
- Reassess interest periodically as conditions change, with the idea that concern about food access will increase

Strategic Planning

- Communicate the work that is already happening by the Ag Comm and others, such as Seacoast Permaculture, Seacoast Eat Local

- Create overlap between organizations to reinforce the small steps that are being taken to support local food production and share resources in the face of the overwhelming nature of climate change impacts

Incentives to hold on to/attract farmers?

- Agritourism overshadowing local food production

Broaden the interpretation of eating locally to eating regionally

Farm Day

- Invite farms from three towns to participate
- Meet with farmers in three towns to discuss event
- Update Ag Comm brochure
- Provide take aways from Farm Day – honey, syrup
- Provide more examples of animal husbandry
- Invite participants to try Dave's animal stocking spreadsheet
- Provide information of food preservation
- Invite UNHCE to be active participants with booth at LaRoche Farm

II. Adjourn

The work session adjourned at 8:35pm.