

Meeting Minutes
Durham Agricultural Commission
September 11, 2023

Commission Members Present – Ellen Karelitz, Ray LaRoche, Dave Langley, Ellie Lonske, Holly Philbrick, Alberto Manalo, Tom DeCapo, John Carroll, Lee Alexander, Dan Winans, Theresa Walker

Commission Members Absent – Anton Bekkerman, Bryan Cassidy

I. New Business

Minutes of the July and August meetings – Langley suggested changing the word collaborative to cooperative in the 3rd paragraph. Manalo moved to approve the minutes with the change. Winans seconded the motion. The motion passed. DeCapo suggested the minutes of the August meeting be changed to “as no quorum was present, the meeting was not called to order and no business was conducted.” LaRoche moved to approve the August minutes with this change. Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- A. Correspondence – All correspondence was been related and the group thanked Lee for responding to resident requests for help.
- B. Farm Day Review – Attendance was steady throughout the day at LaRoche Farm and tours at UNH facilities were well attended. The group discussed moving the date of the event and promoting it more strongly via social media. There is interest in the history of Durham farms and that may be a program that the Ag Comm can offer with the Historical Association.
- C. Collaborative Food Production – Manalo reviewed the draft list of tasks for focus group interviews and the potential list of questions to ask focus group participants. Ag Comm members will email their edits to the tasks and questions to Manalo and their suggestions for focus group members to Walker by October 6th.

II. Old Business

A. Ag Comm Initiatives:

- Dave’s spreadsheet – Langley said more work needs to be done to determine carrying capacity at the production level. Walker said the spreadsheet could be reviewed with focus groups.
 - Bee Friendly Program – Alexander said it has been a good year for honey production. The Land Stewardship Committee has declined to take on managing the Town’s Xerces Society/Bee City USA participation but will assist with annual reporting.
 - Garden and Farm Mentors – no report
- B. Durham Farmers’ Market – roadside signs advertising the market are available. Walker, LaRoche, and Karelitz have put them in their front yards.
 - C. Land Stewardship Subcommittee – Carroll reported the Subcommittee did not meet in July or August.
 - D. Community Gardens – Karelitz said the wet weather has been hard on gardens.

III. Other Business – Walker asked if the October 9th meeting date should be changed due to the long holiday weekend. The group agreed to meet on October 16th.

IV. Adjourn – Manalo moved to adjourn at 8:05pm. Winans second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.