

Durham Agricultural Commission  
July 8, 2024

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

Commission Members Absent – Bryan Cassidy

I. New Business

- A. Minutes of the June meeting – No minutes were taken in Walkers' absence. Walker will draft minutes using the DCAT recording.
- B. Correspondence – The group discussed the email from DPW providing information on the Town's procedures for spraying invasive plants along roadways. The group also discussed a request from the Planning Board regarding the application of fertilizer on non-agricultural fields. The Planning Board is considering amendments to the Table of Uses. DeCapo will report to the Planning Board that the Ag Comm support the protection of soil quality and health and state regulations regarding the application of fertilizer must be followed.
- C. Finalize Plans for August 17<sup>th</sup> Farm Day – The group reviewed the list of events. Register suggested inviting other town boards and commissions to participate. Walker will send invitations to the Conservation Commission, Energy Committee, Land Stewardship Committee, and the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee asking if they would like to set up a tent and table at LaRoche Farm on Farm Day to share information.

II. Old Business

A. Ag Comm Initiatives:

- Resident Outreach – Bekkerman and Manalo presented a draft set of questions for a survey of residents regarding their interest in growing and eating more local food. The group discussed the questions and made some changes and decided to invite Farm Day attendees to take the survey as a trial run. One goal of the survey is to determine who is interested in growing and eating local food, and perhaps producing food.
- Animal Capacity Estimator – On hold as we gather information from the survey.
- Bee Friendly Program – Alexander reported that honey production is up this year. He has been leading talks about bees and beekeeping at many places, including Moharimet School and Emery Farm. The project at UNH Woodman Farm to manage ag fields for bees is going well.
- Summer Farmer's Market – Walker reported she has been attending the market downtown and Monday afternoons and noticed more customers than in prior years.
- Garden and Farm Mentors – no report as Cassidy is absent.

B. Land Stewardship Subcommittee – Carroll had no news to report.

C. Wagon Hill Community Gardens -Karelitz said the gardens are growing well and harvesting for food pantries has begun.

III. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:10p,