

Durham Agricultural Commission

11 August 2025
Durham Town Hall

Meeting Minutes (draft)

Members present: Theresa Walker, Ray LaRoche (Vice Chair), Curtis Register (Town Council Rep)
Lee Alexander, Anton Bekerman, John Carroll, Ellen Karelitz, David Marcouillier,
Dave Langley and Alberto Manalo.

Members absent: Bryan Cassidy and Holly Philbrick,

Visitors: none

1. New Business

A. Minutes of the July 2025 meeting – approved; Anton, Alberto, and Lee abstained

B. Correspondence – e-mail from UNH about UNH Capstone Project

2. Old Business

A. AgComm Initiatives

1) Resident Outreach – survey, workshops, & social media

UNH Capstone Project students will continue to participate in the Collaborative Agriculture. Ideally, they will employ some geo-spatial techniques to map/evaluate potential locations (e.g., soils, neighborhoods, current land use, etc.). Curtis suggested that the students could also interact with participants related to cooperative trial period. Anton and Alberto will coordinate.

Curtis read the news release that he prepared.

2) Animal Capacity Estimator – Dave stated it is on hold.

3) Bee Friendly Program – Lee reported that the lack of significant rainfall the past 3-4 weeks has adversely impacted honey production. Very few wildflowers currently have any nectar. Further, most fall wildflowers (e.g., goldenrod) are already blooming.

4) Garden and Farm Mentors – no report (Bryan was absent).

5) 2025 Farm Day – 16 August 2025.

Theresa distributed “Farm Day” signs and posters. Various sites were specifically mentioned (Transfer Station, Food Court, etc.). QR codes will also be posted. Theresa encouraged some photos be taken. Tecce Farm will provide 8 dozen ears of corn. Theresa also

B. Land Stewardship Subcommittee – John provided a brief update.

C. Community Gardens – Ellen provided a brief update.

D. Farmers’ Markets – Mondays, 2:30 – 6:00pm, 66 Main St.

3. Other Business

A. Theresa suggested that Wayne Burton be invited to discuss any future land use plans for Wagon Hill, and what possible agricultural activities could be involved.

B. Curtis reported that Town Council may form some new committees that will possibly involve agricultural considerations.

Next AgComm meeting: 8 September 2025

4. Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Recorded by Lee Alexander