

Plainfield Agriculture Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021

Location: Virtual meeting on zoom

Time: Chairperson Jennie Kapszukiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Mike Desjardins, Jo-Ann Desrochers, Vernon Gray, Jr., Sherry Harmon, Jennie Kapszukiewicz

Absent: None

Alternates Present: Chris Barber

Absent: Mark Gluck

Public Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Mike Desjardins moved to accept the meeting minutes from October 26, 2020. Sherry Harmon seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Old Business

a. Small Group Updates

i. Community Outreach – No Update.

ii. Scholarship and Fundraising – Jennie updated the commission that the 2020 Scholarship recipient, Sara Ali, furnished her Fall 2020 transcripts and Jennie requested from the finance department that her \$500 check be mailed directly to her. She encouraged the commission to think about inviting both the 2019 and 2020 recipients to a summer meeting to acknowledge them.

iii. Winter Market – Sherry recommended to the commission to hold the Winter Market in May at Lions Park. Spaces could continue to be 10 x 10 with plenty of outdoor spacing. At the October 2020 meeting, Kevin Cunningham believed that an outdoor market was feasible.

-Mike Desjardins made a motion to let Sherry Harmon have discussions with Kevin Cunningham about feasibility and if approved, to secure an event date of May 15, with a rain date of May 22 for the Winter Market to be held at Lions Park. Jo-Ann Desrochers second the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

iv. **Right-To-Farm Ordinance** – No Update.

- v. **Farmers Market** – Jennie reported that there was an email exchange of the survey questions for the town and stood behind the Agriculture Commission's recommendation for a more comprehensive survey, even if it didn't meet the criteria of the available grants. She is awaiting word from the town planner/selectmen for next steps.

b. **Community Events** – Jennie invited Commission members and guests to share agricultural events in the community, whether previously attended or upcoming events.

- Jo-Ann Desrochers' farm had a very successful pick your own apple season. People were eager to get outside and followed all the established rules. Those who came provided positive feedback.
- Vernon Gray, Jr. shared that his tree farm, had its best season in about 7 years. He is gearing up to support his brother's maple syrup venture by expanding their taps and he hopes for a higher yield than previous seasons.

New Business

- a. **2021 Agriculture Commission regular meeting calendar** – Sherry Harmon moved to accept the 2021 regular meeting calendar as presented. Vernon Gray, Jr. seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Monday February 22, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday March 22, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday April 26, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday May 24, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday June 28, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday July 26, 2021 – NO MEETING
Monday August 23, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday September 27, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday October 25, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday November 22, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Tuesday December 28, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Monday January 24, 2022 @ 7:00 PM

b. **Opportunities: Alternate Vacancy and Recording Secretary -**

-Dawn VanCedarfield submitted her letter of resignation after Jennie approached her with the commission's recommendation to allow her to attend meetings virtually after inconsistent attendance during her first year with the commission. The commission agreed to follow the Town Charter's recommendation for removal based on attendance and failure

to notify. Jennie will inquire with the clerk's office as to what party affiliation is required to fill the alternate vacancy.

-A discussion took place regarding Alternate Mark Gluck's inconsistent attendance and failure to notify the chair of absences. The commission agreed to follow the Town Charter's recommendation for removal based on attendance and failure to notify. Mike Desjardins will meet with Mark to discuss options.

-Rebecca Desjardins, recording secretary, submitted her letter of resignation, effective for the end of 2020. Jennie expressed her appreciation and dedication Rebecca had to the commission and to the field of agriculture at large. She was not only a valuable asset during the meetings, but also was an integral part of the commission's Facebook page, making and sharing valuable posts relevant to the field. Jennie has been in contact with Kevin Cunningham over a replacement and Kevin is investigating if a commission member can be compensated for their duty of taking and posting minutes. Jennie encouraged any member interested in this role, to reach out following the meeting.

- c. **2021 Officer Elections** – Jennie encouraged other regular members to consider taking a leadership role. With no new nominations, Mike Desjardins moved to keep the current field of officers. Sherry Harmon seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

-Jennie Kapszukiewicz – Chair

-Mike Desjardins – Co-Chair

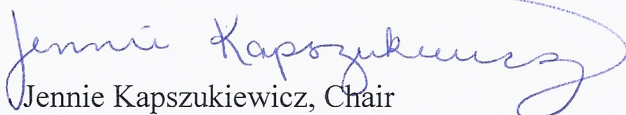
-Sherry Harmon - Secretary

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Plainfield Agriculture Commission will be a special meeting, held on Monday, February 22, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: Sherry Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm. Jo-Ann Desrochers seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Chair