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On 3/2/2022

Attest: [Signature]  
Town Clerk

**Plainfield Agriculture Commission**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday February 23, 2021**

**7:00 pm**

**Location:** Plainfield Town Hall Community Room and Zoom link

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

**Members Present:** Mike Desjardins, Vernon Gray, Jr., Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Jo-Ann Desrochers, Sherry Harmon  
**Absent:** None

**Alternates Present:** – Chris Barber, Lu-Ann Cunningham, Jenn Sangermano  
**Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Paul Desrochers, Kevin Cunningham, Art Gagnon, June Gagnon

**Approval of Minutes:** Sherry Harmon moved to accept the meeting minutes from September 27, 2021. Vernon Gray, Jr seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**Old Business:**

-New member introductions made for Jenn Sangermano and Lu-Ann Cunningham who were appointed by the Selectman on 2-14-2022

a. **Small Group Updates**

1. **Community Outreach –**

- **May 28, 2022** – Sherry Harmon of Nutmeg Acres Wildlife Rehabilitation, Moosup, CT will make a presentation on Monarch Butterflies and the benefits of pollinators.
- **TBD June 2022** –Ranger Bill of the Last Green Valley has a new program on skulls. Vern has him presenting the program on March 22, 2022 for his Boy Scout Troop and will ask him his availability for June.

2. **Scholarship and Fundraising –**

- Jennie has updated the scholarship packet and sent to area high schools – Killingly Agriculture Education Program, Plainfield High School and Ellis Tech to be included in the senior packets. Dates changed to reflect current year.

- Mike provided an update on fundraising efforts. He has been soliciting local businesses for Scholarship raffle donations. Rebecca Desjardins, Plainfield resident and supporter of the Plainfield Agriculture Commission will be volunteering at the Raffle area of the Winter Market on 3-5-2022

3. **Winter Market** – Sherry provided a Winter Market Update.

- Vendor listing and town hall vendor layout provided to commission members to review for the event.
- Thursday March 3, 2022 – Set up will begin @ 6:00pm
- Saturday March 5, 2022 – Available commission members are asked to arrive at 7:30 am to begin preparations. Vendors can begin arriving at 8:00am, with set up complete at 9:45. Vendors are asked to remain the entire duration with breakdown complete by 3:00
- Any member willing to remain and support the raffle calls and distribution are asked to.
- Sherry Harmon moved to approve a half page add in both the Turnpike Buyer and the Shoppers guide for \$296. Mike Desjardins seconded. All in favor, motion carries.
- Jennie will work on setting up the Agriculture Commission table and if time allows, will update the Ag Com flyer with a possible map.
- Covid procedures – mask optional. No other requirements required by CDC or town hall.
- There will be a food truck vendor.
- Raffle permit – with the support of Kevin Cunningham, the permit will be submitted on 2-24-2022.

4. **Right to Farm** – No update.

5. **Farmers Market** – No update.

b. **Open Space Project**

-At a recent Selectmen meeting, it was announced that the Open Space Project committee will be starting shortly. More details forthcoming.

c. **Community Events** (events attended, upcoming events, agricultural highlights)

-Meet My Farmer – March 19, 2022 from 10:00-1:00 at the Elks Lodge in Willimantic.

-Gray Ledge Tree Farm – has collected 400 gallons of sap.

-Vernon Gray provided an update on the Alvirne School in Hudson, NH Agriculture Program and its history and trouble with fire. A documentary was created and the structure rebuilt in exact replica.

**New Business:**

**a. 2022 Officer Elections**

- Sherry Harmon moved to keep the current field of officers. Mike Desjardins seconded te motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- Jennie Kapszukiewicz – Chair
- Mike Desjardins – Co-Chair
- Sherry Harmon – Secretary

**b. Regional Agriculture Meeting**

- Jennie invited all commission members to join her at a Regional Agriculture meeting being hosted by the Stafford Agriculture Commission on Wednesday April 13, 2022 from 6-8PM. Registration required.

**Public Comment:**

- Kevin Cunningham provided the following updates:
  - (1) Kevin expressed his appreciation that the Plainfield Agriculture Commission works diligently to fundraise to support their projects.
  - (2) Kevin thanked the commission that by putting on events such as the Winter Market, it brings people into our community that puts revenue to area businesses.
  - (3) Kevin encouraged the commission to send him or Kyle Collins the Winter Market flyer for publication on the Town of Plainfield website.
  - (4) Kevin provided an update on the Open Space Project on Kate Downing Road. Those residents interested in participating on this committee should send a letter of interest including their party affiliation to the selectman.
  - (5) Kevin provided support in obtaining the raffle permit for the Winter Market.
  - (6) Kevin provided an update on the Annex outcomes. At this time, it has been deemed unsafe by the fire marshal. At this time, it appears that the only conclusion for this structure is demolition given its unsafe status. With this outcome, Kevin proposed possibilities for this property could be a permanent farmers market. Grant funding is available for demolition if tied to future projects such as agriculture. He asked for the commissions support in generating what types of events could occur at such a multi-use space and farmers market ideas/challenges.
  
- Art Gagne informed the commission that the Planning and Zoning Commission is planning a meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to inform the public of changes to Accessory Dwellings. Art will provide additional information in advance of the March 23, 2022 meeting to be included in packets for review.
  
- Sherry Harmon read an email from Courtney Cardinal of the Killingly Agriculture Education program outlining changes to the term agriculture which would have lasting impacts.

**Next Meeting:** Regular meeting on Wednesday March 23, 2022

**Adjournment:** Sherry Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm. Mike Desjardins seconded the motion. All in favor; motioned carried.\

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Chair