



Plainfield Agriculture Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday March 22, 2021

7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Time: Chairperson Jennie Kapszukiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

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

Absent: None

Alternates Present: Chris Barber

Absent: None (2 alternate vacancies)

Public Present: Paul Desrochers

Approval of Minutes: Mike Desjardins moved to accept the meeting minutes from February 22, 2021. Sherry Harmon seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Old Business:

a. Small Group Updates

1. **Community Outreach** – No formal update, but Vern presented a proposal for researching the agricultural history of the area of town off Spaulding Road. Commission looks forward to his updates.
2. **Scholarship and Fundraising** – Jennie made deadline changes and submitted the scholarship application to Plainfield High School, Ellis Tech and Killingly High School to be included in their senior packets.
3. **Winter Market** – Of the 41 former vendors that Sherry reached out to, only 12 responded. Of those twelve, 10 committed to the market, while the other two were not comfortable given the situation surrounding Covid. Given the lack of response and the quickly approaching date, the commission agreed to not hold a market in 2021. Focus shifted to the 2022 Winter Market and March 19, 2022 with a snow date of March 26, 2022 were selected. Jennie thanked Sherry for her countless hours dedicated to the market project.

4. **Right to Farm** – No update.

5. **Farmers Market** – No update, but Jennie did read in the Conservation Commission minutes that the survey has been finalized.

b. **Community Events** (events attended, upcoming events, agricultural highlights) Mike Desjardins now has his beef being used at Hanks Dairy Bar. Vern Gray is finishing up the maple syrup season with his brother and production is very low. This week is National Ag week and Sherry will make a Facebook post. Jennie will make a post regarding the scholarship.

New Business:

a. Opportunities:

-Two Alternate Vacancies.

b. Meeting via Zoom or in-person: Jennie reached out to Kevin Cunningham who said that changes to in-person meetings will be announced through his office. It had been expressed that Zoom is more convenient, but other members prefer the in-person option. Jennie will keep the commission informed as to the location, whether Zoom or in-person, of the next meeting.

Public Comment: Paul Desrochers celebrated a strong spinach harvest.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Plainfield Agriculture Commission will be a regular meeting on Monday April 26, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: Sherry Harmon moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm. Jo-Ann Desrochers seconded the motion. All in favor; motioned carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennie Kapszukiewicz, Chair