

Nelson Agricultural Commission

Minutes of Meeting May 6, 2015

Olivia Rodham Memorial Library - Nelson

Members Present: *Val Van Meier, John Bunce, Judi Lang, and Jacqueline Roland*

Guests: *Barbara Voymas & Pat Rich*

1. Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Minutes of 4/1/2015 meeting accepted as corrected.
3. Commission members reviewed tasks their Farm Tour planning efforts. John Bunce found out that the Apple Fest is usually scheduled for Columbus Day weekend. Jacqueline Roland reported that she spoke with Tiger and Gigi Batchelder, and they're interested in participating in the Farm Tour. Val Van Meier contacted Bud French, and he is also interested in having his farm on the Farm Tour.

Members discussed other local farms that could be a part of the tour. The Commission selected October 17th as the date of the Farm Tour. Jacqueline offered to let the Batchelder's and Barbara Fraser know about the scheduled date.

4. Judi Lang reported on her continued work on the Ag Com mailing list. Jacqueline informed Commission members that she successfully sent out an email to email list members informing them about the Nelson Congregational Church's May 3rd plant swap.
5. Members briefly discussed their efforts to review Nelson's zoning policies and master plan in relation to the Cooperative Extension's "Is Your Town Farm Friendly" checklist. They agreed to revisit that project later in the year after their Farm Tour event.
6. Val reviewed the Ag Com's page on the library-run town website and identified term information that needed to be updated. Jacqueline agreed to speak with Kris Finnegan about updating the info.
7. The Commission discussed its membership. Barbara Voymas and Pat Rich expressed an interest in becoming Ag Com members. Jacqueline will speak with Michael Iselin about his term expiration.
8. Val shared with the Commission about her research for the Ag Com Lecture Series and her efforts to find a suitable speaker. She asked members to be on the lookout for possible lecture series presenters.
9. Members brainstormed future event ideas related to animal husbandry, such as an animal husbandry panel with local residents. They also discussed the feasibility of having a community garden and the possibility of having an Ag Com scholarship. Val offered to research Ag Com rules relative to fundraising; she also agreed to check with the town offices to review the Commission's finances.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted Jacqueline Roland, secretary.

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