

Agriculture Commission, Nelson NH

Minutes of Meeting November 2, 2016

Olivia Rodham Memorial Library-Nelson

Members present: Val Van Meier, John Bunce, Barbara Voymas, Pat Rich, Mare-Anne Jarvela

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm
2. Discussion of 2017 speaker series. We still need to confirm some of the speakers. Al Stoops on edible plants for January 21st. Ted Link will discuss blueberry pruning on April 9th. Kathy Schillemat on wattle fences on May 20th, possibly making a fence for the 250th anniversary herb garden. Nick and Becky on sugaring for February, Ted Redfield on pigs for March, Tiger Batchelder on fencing, and David Wichland on mushrooms.
3. Publicity. Our website at townofnelson.com/life-in-nelson/agricultural-commission needs updating. We will work on the updates at our next meeting on December 7.
4. Possible new members were discussed. Ralph Castor is interested.
5. Discussion about Nelson's 250th anniversary herb garden. A list of flowers and herbs grown in New England before 1800 was handed out. Copies will be made for next meeting.
6. Discussion about Nelson School/Harris Center joint agricultural venture. The ag com will support the venture after the school and Harris Center come up with a plan.
7. Discussion about a neighborhood garden co-op (gardener A grows tomatoes, gardener B grows beans, gardener C grows onions... and all will share the bounty with everyone in the co-op). To be successful we need to find out if there is interest in the community. Lucy Daniels may be available to discuss how the co-op functions. Create a survey. The survey can be handed out at the speaker events, emailed to our mailing list, and maybe posted on our website (Val will look into Survey Monkey). If there is interest we could do this for the 2018 gardening season. Community gardens were also discussed. Priscilla Walters land would be ideal. Not sure about interest.
8. Seed saving was discussed. Pat will call the extension service to see if they have someone who can talk on the topic
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Submitted by Mare-Anne Jarvela, acting secretary