

August Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2019

Present: Pat Rich, John Bunce, Barbara Frazier, Val Van Meier, Mare-Anne Jarvela, Sam Romano

The meeting commenced at 7:06pm

Val spoke about Old Home Day and that, while Rick Church would be unavailable, an exhibition bee hive will be available.

Mare-Anne showed photos of her wildflower field. This was the result of seeds the Cheshire County Conservation Commission. Val felt hers didn't do as well. This was from the Xerces Society as a trial. Mare-Anne will write up her results. This planting was to encourage beneficial insects and pollinators.

Val has the banner for Old Home Day. Exhibits will be on bees, wildflowers and worms. There was some discussion of the Colonial Garden. There are brochures but not many left. There was discussion on printing more.

There was discussion regarding the Farmer's Market. John will bring the sign and Val will add this year's date. Linda's Closet Run will take place on the same date with the start of the race at the Nelson School. There will be about 100 runners. They have requested some of the space from 6am to 9:30am. There was discussion regarding various parking options. John Bunce volunteered his driveway for parking. Val will speak with the person heading the race to negotiate the space at the school. Val and members on this committee will rope off Farmer's Market space and try to keep the runners at the playground end and the parking lot clear. Two vendors have signed up so far. Val will send out weekly emails and flyers will be distributed to encourage more vendors. Child vendors will not need to pay a fee for their space. All vendor fees are donated to the School.

There was discussion regarding the Winter Lecture series. These will be 45 min talks with 15 min of Q & A. Sam's co-worker, Jason, will speak about hydroponics, Steve Robarge will speak about silvaculture, and Val will do one on vermiculture. Presenters will choose their month. There was also discussion about Robin Sweetzer speaking about grafting/rooting vegetables. However, she may not be interested because there is no fee for presenters. Mare-Anne will contact her. There was also some talk about Kathleen Vetter speaking about high tunnel extensions, but she may not be available. Other possible topics might be sugaring, how to improve your woodlot, woodstove cooking (Barbara Voymas?), local beer making (Sue Benik of Nye Hill Garden?). There was brief discussion on growing a beer garden.

There was discussion of how Harrisville started their community garden and how this might not be so workable for Nelson.

The meeting wrapped up and adjourned at 8:06pm

Respectfully submitted by Sam Romano