

Nelson Agricultural Commission Minutes, Feb. 5, 2020  
Olivia Rodham Library

Members present: Val Van Meier, Sam Romano, Pat Rich, Mare-Anne Jarvela  
Guest: Rich Popovic

Meeting called to order 7:01 p.m.

Action items:

Added lecture to the series. Peter McMahon of Liquid Sun from Putney, VT will be speaking about hydroponics on March 21 at the library. Thanks to Sam for making the contact. Mare-Anne will update the flyer with the new lecture.

**New Business –**

Nelson Elementary School Greenhouse. Nelson School Board member Rich Popovic would like to explore the community interest and Ag Com support for adding a greenhouse to the Nelson School. Rich believes that the school has some PTO funds set aside for this project and there may be a chance that there is a free greenhouse available from the Keene High School. Rich will contact former school principle Ron Upton for an update. John Bunce may also have a greenhouse available.

A greenhouse would benefit the students in many ways academically and they would learn how to grow food that then can add nutrition to the school lunches. Rich stressed the importance of bringing the community to the school. The greenhouse could be a great vehicle if community members would volunteer to help. Val will send out an email to the Ag Com mailing list to see if there is a community interest. The greenhouse (gardening club) could be part of the after school activities. We also discussed the importance to get the Nelson teachers and staff excited about this project.

Community Garden. We will package up seeds collected from the garden and give them out at the April and May lectures.

**2020 Lecture Series –**

**Feb. 29** – Rick Brackett, Monadnock Conservancy – Growing Chestnuts in the Forest

**March 21** – Peter McMahon of Liquid Sun – Hydroponics

**March 28** – Steve Robarge, UNH Extension, Managing your Wood Lot

**April 18** – Val Van Meier – Vermicomposting

**May 23** – Sue Benik, Nye Hill Brewery – Growing a Beer Garden

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mare-Anne Jarvela