

Nelson Agriculture Commission Minutes  
March 4, 2020 Olivia Rodman Library

Members present: Val Van Meier, Sam Romano, Pat Rich, Mare-Anne Jarvela, Barbara Frazier, Rachel Patterson, John Bunce

Guests: Deke Conklin, Scott and Deidre Oliver Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

1. Discussion of possible Nelson Community Garden: The Oliver's had offered to share their experiences of the multiple year Harrisville Community Garden. The following are a listing of issues they experienced.

- a. Land was available due to The Harrisville Historical Society's ownership.
- b. Historical Harrisville provided insurance.
- c. Grants for startup cost were provided by Cheshire County Extension Services and Cheshire County Conservation District. Must be non-profit to qualify for these grants.
- d. Also raised money from the "Black Fly Ball," a community dance.
- e. The community provided funding for more than one year to help defray startup costs.
- f. Must provide solar powered 4' high electrical fence, taken down and reinstalled each year. Their cost at the time was nearly \$1000.
- g. Initially must be plowed, layered with manure and soil tested. Need compost pile location.
- h. Divided in 15x20' plots rented at \$25 each. They now have 46 plots. Rented by 35 families. No raised beds. Initially lottery for individual lot location.
- i. Biggest challenge is water, deer, woodchucks and people leaving gate open.
- j. Bob's Wash Well Company did provide a shallow well with 2 hand pumps for \$1500.
- k. Limited rules. Must be organic and remove rocks to proper location.
- l. Built shed for shared donated equipment, unlocked.
- m. Need to provide driveway and parking lot.
- n. Enjoyable end of the season Pot Luck dinner by gardeners.

2. New Business

a. Rachael Patterson suggested the possibility of Nelson residence sharing gardening tools. Val said she will work on a questionnaire to eventually be sent to committee's mailing list. It was also mentioned Betsy Church could provide an updated list of Nelson farmers.

b. A date to package seeds was added to next meeting's agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM Minutes submitted by John Bunce

Approved via zoom meeting on May 6, 2020

By: Valerie Van Meier  
John Bunce  
Pat Rich

Rachel Patterson  
Mare-Anne Jarvela