

Nelson Agricultural Commission
Meeting minutes October 4, 2017
Olivia Rodham Memorial Library Basement

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

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
2. The Colonial Garden. The members of the commission will collect seeds and clean out the garden on Oct. 11, 12 or 13 depending on the weather. After the first hard frost we will remove the nasturtiums and any other annuals and mulch the garden.
3. 2018 Lecture Series. The questionnaire and survey results show that there is a wide variety of topics that are of interest to the community. Real dirt on soil; most common garden pests; fermentation; orchard pruning and grafting; hugulculture are the top choices. It was also suggested that we contact Mayfair Farm (a local success, how they do it and what they'd change) and Sue O'Dwyer (cheese making from one cow). Bramble fruits may be another good topic for a lecture.
4. Banner. Silver Direct is quoting us \$85 for a 1-sided banner. 13 oz. vinyl, hemmed with grommets. A suggestion to also have a logo on the banner was discussed.
5. The Sept. Farmers' Market. Everyone thought it was a success. 13 vendors were happy and the Nelson PTO served a wonderful lunch. It was suggested that we do it again next year but maybe a couple of weeks later so that more of the fall produce (like pumpkins) can be offered.
6. The 28th Sept. Monadnock Farm & Community Coalition Forum with Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner, NH Dept. of Agriculture as the speaker. Three of the members from the Nelson Ag. Com. attended the forum and shared some of the information with the group.
As local town regulations often are more troublesome to farmers than state and national regulations it was suggested that the Nelson Ag. Com. look into ways to communicate more with the planning/zoning boards and the conservation committee in town.
At the forum Lorraine discussed some of the farming statistics for NH. The Ag. Com. will look into finding more statistics for NH and our region.
Look into promotion of "Food Friendly Yards" instead of growing grass.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mare-Anne Jarvela, acting secretary