

**Agricultural Commission
June 16, 2009**



Meeting in room 104, 2 Jabish St., Lawrence Memorial Hall

Member present: Grace Adzima, Judy Gillan
Associate Members: Daniel Beaudette, Susan Gay

Absent Members: J. Clements, J. Gillan, H. Guardenier, R. Reidy, W. Shattuck

The meeting is informational, as there are two full members present. The minutes from May 19, 2009 were read, and Grace asked for them to be filed with the Town Clerk office.

Judy said the children's garden, put together by Hope Guardenier is lovely. Judy said people are on waiting list for garden plots, as the amount of garden space grew 30%. People who are not showing up to maintain gardens are called and asked if they still have an interest in continuing their plot. There is discussion of a steering committee for the gardens to discuss and keep projects growing.

Future projects: the Antique Tractor and Engine Show, in conjunction with the Historic Commission will be held July 11 and 12 on the town common. Also, the Can Do group will be on the town common this week end – showcasing businesses who signed up. The Farm Brochures will be available.

Two warrants were signed. Grace had a few books the AgComm purchased for the library. A sticker will be placed inside the books showing they were donated by the Agricultural Commission.

Dan had to leave the meeting at 7:30, to join the Community Preservation Commission, as he is the Planning Board member representative. They are meeting tonight across the hall.

Judy spoke of the New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) and what has been happening on the site. She noted that they are renovating one of the dairy buildings, and hope to have a granary. There are people interested in composting, wheat enterprise, biochar, and virtual demonstrations. Various agencies are coming together at NESFI and discussing a variety of projects. Noted that Rob Rizzo, Chairman of the Conservation Commission has a newly appointed position in the Department of Energy in Boston.

Grace will forward a note to the Board of Selectmen noting that Dan Beaudette and Sue Gay wish to be reappointed as Associate Members. Jon Clements will speak to the Conservation Commission to see if they wish his post filled by another Con Com member. Jon will step down from his post as a full member.

Grace will send a horse directory to the Computer Director and ask if he will put it on the AgComm website.

Grace said she had a flyer in the mail that the Belchertown 250th Anniversary will be held in June of 2011. The town is asking for volunteers to get this together.

July 21, 2009 will be the next scheduled meeting for the Agricultural Commission.

Adjourned 8:20 pm.

minutes submitted by S. Gay