

**Agricultural Commission
June 17, 2008**

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

Members: G. Adzima, J. Gillan

Associate Members: S. Gay, D. Beaudette, A. Page (7:25 pm)

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



Meeting agenda items:

Grace Adzima showed members the newest version of the Farm Brochure. She will ready a purchase order for copies of the brochure. There are several new listings on the brochure.

Judy Gillan noted the community garden space at N.E.S.F.I. is in full swing, with a lot of energy at the Jackson Street farm right now. The movie called King Corn will be shown at the farm tonight. Judy received the information she requested from the Assessor office for land listed in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B.

Grace mentioned dairy farmers and personal property tax on animals and equipment. Discussed how taxing or not encourages or discourages agriculture endeavors.

Judy Metcalf, Director, Board of Health did a presentation and talked to farmers regarding residential kitchens and preparation to sell retail products.

Alan Page came to the meeting.

Grace gave an update on an issue dealing with animals and health codes. The Agriculture Commission can help farmers as far as showing them what steps are available to them in a farming venture. A member of the committee may go to the Board of Health meeting which will discuss or review the animal and health code regulations.

Mobile poultry process is another issue towns will or will not welcome. Amherst will be holding a public hearing on this.

Alan went over fuel sources and future fuel issues.

Judy noted local food resources, and canning workshops. Grace said the committee could review planting and canning resources at the next committee meeting July 15, 2008.

Daniel Beaudette's Associate membership will run out next week. Dan sent the Board of Selectmen a letter asking to continue his membership as an Associate member to the Agriculture Commission.

Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes: June 17, 2008: S. Gay