

RICHMOND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

11/14/2013

Attending: Theresa Majoy, Wes Vaughan, Sandy Holbrook, Rosti Eismont, Heather Canfield

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Theresa.

Old Business: The year's activities were reviewed. Theresa asked if we wished to continue with the activities we had initiated and participated in, these being our Garden Tour, the Conservation Commission's Family Farm Day, and the Historical Society's Potluck. Moved to continue all (Sandy), seconded (Heather), approved unanimously. The following changes were agreed upon:

Garden Tour: The tour will again be held in June, as the flower gardens tend to be at their best at that time. We will hold it on a weekend day, and expand the hours of operation to accommodate more viewers. We will explore the possibility of expanding participation to include garden clubs in other towns (Fitzwilliam being one possibility raised by Theresa).

Family Farm Day: Theresa asked us to consider activities other than lecture/adult oriented topics as our component of this collaboration. All agreed that the F.F. Day attracts folks with kids. We need to develop an activity or activities that will be fun and educational. Sandy suggested contacting Wendy as storyteller, Heather suggested craft projects, as did Theresa. Any further discussion or decision was tabled until we resume our meetings next year.

Budget: Both Sandy and Rosti incurred expenses for the production of signage and literature pertaining to this year's events. Theresa reminded them to submit a detailed and itemized invoice to her before Monday, November 18th, as this is the deadline for submission to the Town. Theresa will submit invoices at the budget meeting on Monday night.

Collaboration with Other Boards and Bodies: We would like to continue our collaboration with other boards and organizations. We will consider these as opportunities arise.

Expanding Participation and Membership in the Richmond Agricultural Commission: Theresa and Rosti strongly advocated outreach to teenagers in Richmond. We have one teen that we know is a member of 4H, and another teen with an interest in agriculture. Rosti suggested that they be contacted as prospective "Junior Members". So moved (Heather), seconded (Wes),

and accepted (unanimously). Theresa will check with the Selectboard to see if “junior membership” is allowed. If so, she and Sandy will make contact with these candidates. Theresa also had spoken to Dan Wahl about whether he would be interested in joining us (as he has just completed work on a hayfield). Dan declined, as he is very busy at this time. Theresa and Rosti both suggested that we make contact with local 4H clubs to see if there is any interest in their working with us in any way. 4H participants are encouraged to take part in community life, so this would help them achieve their goals while giving us insights into what the up-and-coming young agriculturalists need/want/enjoy. Theresa is connected to 4H through her work with the Extension, so she will follow up on this.

New Business:

Grant Application: Sandra Gillis passed along a grant application solicitation from the USDA in collaboration with Community Facilities. These grants are to be used to renovate or construct buildings and facilities, purchase of equipment for said buildings and facilities; said buildings and facilities must be used for the purposes of supporting local food security, use as food pantries, community kitchens, libraries and educational facilities, etc. All applicants must be either a public body or a non-profit organization. Maximum grant is \$50,000.00 and is based on population and median household income of the service area. We discussed the feasibility of tackling any project that would be eligible: both Wes and Heather (who have experience in the grant process) felt that we did not have enough resources (people and time) to see the project/grant process through to completion. All agreed that the grant supports many worthy causes, but that, as we currently don’t have the scope to start any such project, we should not pursue the grant. So moved (Heather), seconded (Wes), so voted (unanimously).

Meetings in the New Year: Heather proposed that we cease meeting for the months of December 2013 and January 2014, with meetings to resume in February 2014. She felt that we need to get a head start on the Garden tour and other projects. So moved (Theresa), seconded (Sandy), so voted (unanimously). The next meeting of the Richmond Agricultural Commission will be held on Thursday, February 6th, 2014 at the Veterans’ Hall.

Adjournment: There being no more business, Theresa moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sandy. Approval was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Heather Canfield

Acting Secretary

Richmond Agricultural Commission