

## Agricultural Commission Minutes

Meeting of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:32PM in the Lunch Room at the Town Hall. Attending were Ed Duane, Carolyn Housman, Lorrie Dahlen, Karen Vieira and Norma Haskins.

Secretary's Report- The minutes of the meeting of 9/12 were reviewed. Carolyn offered an amendment. After correction Lorrie made a motion, seconded by Ed to accept the minutes as amended. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Adopt an Island- Karen reports that the season is over for now. Plans under way for next year. The perennials are doing well. Work will begin again in May.

Mounce's Meadow - Erika, the remaining farmer, is working on a new formation plan for review for next year. She tried to apply for a grant but found she did not qualify because land is under Conservation Commission control. She is applying for another grant to fund a high tunnel. Plan needs to be updated soon so she can apply. She would like to participate in a neighbor meeting to facilitate relationships with everyone. We offered to pay for the gas to run the pump for water for the community garden. She will need to give us an invoice.

Community Garden- Lots of work has been completed on preparations for new fencing in the spring and cleaning up the garden in preparation for winter. Ed agreed to send a letter of thanks to the DPW for delivering the mulch for their project. We are still waiting for the approval of the Conservation Commission for the new solar powered deer fence. Conservation Comm. Has agreed to donate \$1,000.00 towards this project. We have received an estimate for the fencing of \$2,209.00 for materials but Lorrie questioned their estimate because there are too few posts listed to complete the perimeter of the garden. There was a brief discussion on the reliability of the new fence and damages done by the deer.

Coming Events- Plymouth County Ag Coms are having a pot luck supper in Kingston 1/17/19. Lorrie, Carolyn and Karen are attending along with Erika from Mounce's Meadow. MAAC is holding their annual meeting in the western part of the state. None of us are going.

Work Session - Lecture Series- Lorrie is stepping back from this program. She will assist in some program work but there needs to be a new lead person. She explained all that has to be done for this program to succeed. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to postpone to a later date or even cancel the lecture series for 2019.

Some other suggestions included setting up tours of local farms/gardens and or perhaps preparing a map of agricultural resources in Marshfield including farms that have roadside farm stands and/or offer classes in animal handling to the public. We discussed compiling information for this map and how to collect it.

Adopt a Seedling. - Lorrie reports this is our major fundraiser for the year and she would like to see it continue. We all agreed. Lorrie agreed to manage it. We discussed options for offerings. Lorrie suggested strawberries. She has a supplier for bare root strawberries and we could start them or just sell the bare roots. After discussion Karen made a motion, seconded by Ed to purchase one bunch of 50 bare roots of strawberries to be offered at the Adopt a Seedling event. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Next meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM,

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Haskins, Secretary