

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, October 1, 2012
Town Office Annex
7 pm

1. Call to Order

At 7:05 PM

2. Attendance

Present: Mackinnon, Thomas, Dean, Stone, Stuhlman, Halpin.
Student Representative Heather Johnson present.
Burak arrives at 7:12 PM

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Stone Second: Dean Passed unanimously

4. Liaison Reports

A. FFA Report: Big E participation successful. A big ropes course trip is proposed.

B. May 22, 2012 Letter (See submitted outline and notes for detail) Heather Johnson says interest in ag. courses is based on "getting through it". Being in VoAg can be stigmatizing. Chairman Thomas noted that there have been some success stories including Novak Bros. Landscaping. A general discussion followed on efficacy of Ag dept./ FFA program. Stone offered to attend next FFA meeting.

C. Harris Property Room for participation from students.

D. Farmers' Market Leos (Lions' Club) attended Farmers' Market. Stone mentioned that it was "nice to have a couple of FFA kids help Jeff Savitsky".

E. Memorial Parade

F. Ag. Jobs Stone has a few job offers.

G. Maple Sugaring Discussed possibility of sugaring with Rob Smith. Olsen on Great Hillwood Road a possibility. Chairman Thomas and Dean will contact Rob Smith.

H. Pumpkins Too late for this year.

5. Ongoing Projects

A. Farmers' Market Kids Day a success. Kudos to Stone for bringing chickens and presenting to TV folks. Visitor numbers are down. Why not Saturdays? Savitsky works Saturdays but is willing to adjust. Chairman suggests a joint meeting of Econ Dev. members and Ag members participating on Farmers' Market Committee.

B. Community Agriculture Center Working on more grants. Also working on bids for land clearing.

C. Grants Waiting.

D. Website Going well. Renewed for 2 years for \$212.00

E. Right to Farm Ordinance Chairman will add "irrigation" language to proposed ordinance allowing for watering of crops as a component of standards and practices for agriculture. Also a right to farm component should be added to Econ Dev. website.

F. Ag. Commission logo Now off the agenda. "Center for Community Agriculture at the Harris Farm."

6. Environmental Roundtable Preparations are underway for the November 3rd event.

7. Audience of Citizens None

8. Adjournment Motion: Mackinnon Second: Stone