

Approved

Meeting Minutes  
Agricultural Commission  
March 7, 2024

Pelham Police Community Room  
14 Village Green, Pelham, NH

Call to Order: 6:31PM

In Attendance:

Jenny Larson, Chair  
Danielle Masse-Quinn, Vice-Chair  
Laura Spottiswood, Secretary  
Steve Doherty, Treasurer  
Charlene Takesian, Board of Selectman Representative  
Michelle Cooke, Member  
James Fisher, Alternate

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting Minutes Review of Minutes of Feb 1, 2024  
(Cooke/Doherty) accepted 5-0-1

Announcements: Resignation of [Laura Spottiswood](#) Laura is stepping down as secretary and member of the Agricultural Commission.

Appointment: Rhonda Whittier Pelham Transfer Station

Rhonda arranged for James Wojcik , Organics Account Manager from Vanguard to come in and speak about the Anaerobic Digestion process. They shared the ability to track and report waste volumes. Rhonda shared that Pelham to date has removed 805 pounds of waste in the two totes. James explained that the food and beverage waste is combined with manure from the farm. It is placed once combined into the biodigester where the natural microorganisms break down the waste. This is broken into the biogas then turned into clean renewable energy. What is not used as energy is recycled into mulch for the cows and fertilizer for the farmers.

Michelle will be following up with the Superintendent of Pelham (Chip McGee) with the new data collected to show the feasibility in town.

Discussion:

**Chestnut Tree Initiative-** James discussed how he joined the Chestnut Tree Foundation and received his seeds to start. Discussion of where possible sites could be to plant small clusters of possible hybrid trees. James is looking to see what variation will survive best.

**Farmer's Market-** John Spottiswood presented Jenny with the paperwork for the Farmer's Market. It contained contacts and applications to be part of the market for vendors. He is stepping down from running the market. John gave suggestions of how he thinks would benefit the market, such as people on the board taking turns being in charge to collect money and set up markets each week.

### **No Treasury Report**

**Positions:** Danielle Masse-Quinn will seek to be renewed as 3 year member, James Fisher will seek a 1year position to fill the member spot open from [Laura Spottiswood](#) resigning. Board of Selectmen meeting on March 19,2024 will make membership confirmation.

Motion made to have Danielle remain the Vice- Chair for the commission.  
(Cooke/Doherty) 5-0-0

Motion made to have Michelle become the secretary of the commission. (Masse-Quinn/Doherty) 5-0-0

Motion to adjourn: 8:21PM  
(Cooke/Doherty)

Respectfully submitted  
Michelle Cooke  
Secretary Agricultural Commission