

**TOWN OF PELHAM
PELHAM AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES JUNE 8, 2023**

Call of Order was called at 6:39 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jenny Larson
Danielle Masse Quinn
Steve Doherty
Laura Spottiswood
Michelle Cooke
James Fisher

ABSENT

Charlene Takesian, Selectmen's Representative

MINUTES

Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2023 to be tabled to July Meeting for approval

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Jenny Larson offered discussion on using the Town email pelhamweb item to be in compliance with the 91-A Right to Know and advised all members if they needed assistance to set up and or have questions to reach out to Brian Demers/IT.

OPEN FORUM

None

APPOINTMENTS

None

DISCUSSION

Community Garden

Ms. Masse Quinn offered discussion on the proposed Pelham Community Garden document and read the document to the members for feedback.

Ms. Masse Quinn offered discussion on Maps from NRPC to show proposed acres of 2.434 located at the Merriam Farm Conservation Land.

Ms. Masse Quinn read the proposed introduction letter to present to the Forestry Commission. All members agreed the letter was good.

Members discussed no raised beds to start the first year for the community garden. Begin with cultivated land with stake markings for plots.

Mr. Jim Fisher and Mr. Doherty would volunteer to plow and cultivate the land

Mr. Jim Fisher offered discussion on installing a 12 foot pump/well to provide a water station for the community garden.

Ms. Masse Quinn offered discussion on the process of the community garden. Brian Johnson with the Pelham Parks and Recreation Dept would handle the yearly collection of monies and issue the pass/card to the residents of the Town.

Members discussed only charging \$25.00/yearly no more than a Town beach access pass would cost.

Ms. Jenny Larson inquired on who would the monies be returned to, the Agricultural Commission and or the Pelham Parks and Recreation Dept. Ms. Masse Quinn will follow up on and reach out to Brian Johnson at the Pelham Park and Recreation Dept.

Ms. Jim Fisher discussed with 2.434 acres there would be about 156 lots/plots available

Ms. Laura Spottiswood offered discussion on raised beds for the Seniors/ Hobbs Center.

All members were in agreement to have some tabletop gardens available for the Seniors and the Commission could reach out to UNH Extension, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local businesses and community volunteers to help build the tabletop gardens.

All members offered discussion on the history of the Merriam Farmland and how the wishes of the owners when sold to the Town was to keep the land agricultural and believed a Community Garden would be a good fit for the land.

Ms. Masse Quinn discussed that the next step would be to present to the Forestry Commission.

All members were in agreement to present to the Forestry Commission

Farmers Market Update

The first Pelham Farmer's Market was held on June 3, 2023 and there was great foot traffic.

There were 26 vendor scheduled and 19 vendors in attendance

The June 10, 2023 Farmers Market will be honoring and thanking the Pelham Town employees/Town Achievement week

MOTION: To reimburse John Spottiswood a total of \$794.50 for the Pelham Farmers Market Insurance Policy (MASSE-QUINN/COOKE)

On June 24, 2023 the Pelham Farmers Market will host a Strawberry Festival and on July 22, 2023 they will host a Blueberry Festival

Master Plan

Ms. Masse Quinn offered an update that Resilience Planning and Design, LLC will include an Agricultural Commission section within the 2023 Pelham Master Plan. The section will be after the Conservation Commission and Forestry Commission sections on page 67.

Ms. Jenny Larson would like to add items from the NH Local Regulation of Agriculture Toolkit document for the 2023 Master Plan and its existing conditions

Ms. Masse Quinn will write up a paragraph for the Agricultural Commission and to include parts of the NH Local Regulation of Agriculture Toolkit document and email to the members for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m.

MOTION: to adjourn meeting (**DOHERTY/COOKE**)

Respectfully submitted by:
Danielle Masse Quinn, Vice Chair