

**TOWN OF PELHAM
PELHAM FORESTRY COMMISSION AND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
APPROVED SITE WALK MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 1, 2023**

Site walk meeting was scheduled for August 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Off of the bottom of Sherburne Road / Chestnut Lane, Pelham, N.H.

FORESTRY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Gendreau, Chairman
Raymond Brunelle, Vice Chairman
Robert Lamoureux
Paul Gagnon

FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Irish-Simpson

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jenny Larson, Chairman
Danielle Masse Quinn, Vice Chair
James Fisher
Michelle Cooke

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Laura Spottiswood
Steve Doherty

BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN ATTENDANCE

Kevin Cote

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Chris and Darl Gallagher of Pelham, N.H.

Nick Spanos of 9 Claudine Drive, Pelham, NH

Mike Mostone of 53 Moon Shadow Drive, Pelham N.H.

Kenneth Taylor of 33 Chestnut Lane, Pelham, NH

Michael Shanahan of 30 Chestnut Lane, Pelham, NH

Dana Racine of 8 Chestnut Lane, Pelham, NH

The Forestry Commission Chair, Mr. Gendreau called the site walk meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

All members and public walked a cleared path to the proposed field location.

Mr. Dana Racine addressed his concerns to all members. The concerns are as follows:

1. Safety for his family;
2. Safety for the residents; due to the location being set back in the woods
3. Adding more traffic to an already compromised Road/Sherburne Road

Mr. Kenneth Taylor offered to the discussion his opposition due to the location and concern for the already existing natural habitat and wildlife.

Mr. Michael Shanahan offered to the discussion his concern. His concern is as follows:

1. He was confused because he saw a social media posting and was not sure what was going on and how far this project had been considered so he wanted to attend this site walk meeting.

Ms. Jenny Larson, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, offered discussion to ensure Mr. Shanahan that the item he is talking about was not an official item and the Pelham Agricultural Commission had no involvement with that.

Ms. Jenny Larson continued discussion by saying this is only a site walk, offered her apologies for that social media item and for the confusion it has caused and concluded by stating, "looking at the land it may not be a suitable piece of land for a community garden".

Mr. Dana Racine offered discussion with a concern for taxes being raised for a community garden.

Ms. Danielle Masse Quinn offered discussion that the intent of the Agricultural Commission and the proposed Community Garden would not have a tax burden on the resident. This is why the Agricultural Commission originally proposed the Community Garden to be located within the Merriam Farm Conservation land.

Mr. Nick Spanos offered discussion on wildlife and believed wildlife and a community garden can co exist in the same location.

Mr. Kenneth Taylor offered discussion in opposition of the location, however, felt Raymond Park would be a better fit for a community garden.

Mr. Mike Gendreau, Chair to the Forestry Commission, offered discussion looking for feedback and thoughts from the Agricultural Commission members.

Mr. James Fisher, member to the Agricultural Commission, offered discussion that he notices certain invasive plants and trees and as a resident with many acres of land and farming them, believes this location would not be suitable for a community garden.

Mr. Dana Racine wanted to know how will the insects be treated for the garden.

Mr. James Fisher, member to the Agricultural Commission, offered discussion by saying there will be no pesticides used at the community garden and only neem oil an organic treatment will be used to treat insects at the community garden.

Ms. Jenny Larson, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, also shared Mr. Fishers concerns as well as the safety concern for the location of the field.

On two occasions Ms. Masse Quinn had to remind the group to please talk one at a time and any and all questions needed to be addressed through the Chair.

Mr. Paul Gagnon offered discussion and was glad the Agricultural Commission took the time to attend the site walk. He stated this was not his first choice and referred to another location/Old County Road.

Mr. James Fisher, member to the Agricultural Commission, stated there is no parking at Old County Road. Old County Road would not work; there is a wetland running through it amongst other invasive and radiated items in that area.

Mr. Paul Gagnon offered discussion and ask Mr. Fisher where he thought a good location would be for a community garden.

Mr. James Fisher, member to the Agricultural Commission, believe Merriam Farm would be a perfect location for a community garden.

Ms. Jenny Larson, Danielle Masse Quinn, Michelle Cooke, members of the Agricultural Commission agreed with Mr. Fishers observation and recommendation.

Ms. Gallagher offered discussion in opposition to having a community garden at the Merriam Farm land. She stated she worked her (explicit) off at Merriam Farm and it needs to be preserved in accordance with the Forestry Management Plan for protection of the wildlife.

Ms. Gallagher then walked away from the site walk meeting.

Mr. Paul Gagnon offered discussion and wanted to have a site walk at two more locations/Old County Road and Raymond Park.

The site walk meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danielle Masse Quinn
Agricultural Commission, Vice Chair

