

TOWN OF WEARE
Agricultural Commission
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Weare NH 03281
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January 5, 2012 - Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Wendy Stevens, Chair, George Malette, Vice Chair, Rick Barry, Secretary.

I: CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wendy Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Weare Town Office Building.

George Malette made a motion to approve April 2011 minutes as amended. Rick Barry seconded, vote was unanimous.

George Malette made a motion to approve November 2011 minutes, Rick Barry seconded, vote was unanimous.

Drew Conroy of Weare, who is also a professor at the Thompson School of Applied Science has been scheduled for the Feb potluck. There was a suggestion of apple cider sampling for backup. A recent UNH article quotes Dr. Conroy as saying he is “passionate about using ruminant animals to feed the world.” He mentions draft oxen in particular. Our potluck is Saturday February 18th at Wildwood Farm.

Article 28.9.1 was reviewed:

28.9.1 EXCEPTIONS: Buffer distances are not required within the right of way for any proposed Class V or higher road or any related Class V road construction and/or maintenance activities. This section does not apply to any forest management or agricultural activity.

The last sentence was discussed at length and duly noted.

The Farm & Forest Expo was discussed which is February 3rd and 4th. They are holding their first ever NH Coalition of Agricultural

Commissions at 12:30 at the event on Saturday. Wendy plans to attend.

It was discussed that parcels under 10 acres can be put in current use if used for farming and produces more than \$2,500 per year. Wendy will check with the town clerk to find out more about the administration of this process. Wendy checked with other towns and other towns do not perform an annual review, they make it clear that if they are found violating their current use status, fines and penalties apply. More research will be done.

George Malette opened a new topic, recommending that any time we find agricultural land, that we could potentially reach out to the landowner. The purpose of doing this would be to find out personally what the landowner's personal dreams and long term plans might be for their land. The agricultural commission could prepare this information as a group and present it to the planning board and conservation commissions for long term planning.

2012 Goals & Outlook were discussed. Goals mentioned were 1) more public awareness of local foods 2) circulate current use information to the public 3) continue the annual potluck and 4) establish the granite beauty utilizing Fedco.

Wendy made a motion to adjourn, George seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Recorded & submitted by,
Wendy J. Stevens