

DRAFT

Town of Weare Agriculture Commission

**Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, September 6, 2012
Weare Town Office Building**

In Attendance

Wendy Stevens, Chair, George Malette, Vice Chair and Jerry Little, Alternate Member.

Call to Order

Chairwoman Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and said that Mr. Little would sit as a regular member for the meeting. Mr. Little recorded the Minutes.

Status of Commission Member McSweeney

Chairwoman Stevens said that she has been told by committee member Ian McSweeney that he is unable to attend monthly commission meetings, but wants to remain supportive of the commission, and that he requests to be converted to alternate member status. Following discussion, it was agreed that Vice Chairman Malette will write to the Weare Board of Selectmen asking that they approve Mr. McSweeney's request and, to fill the resulting opening, move current alternate commission member Jerry Little to regular member status.

Community Gardens/Farm Lease Project

The concepts of developing community gardens and conserving agricultural land in town that could be leased for farming were discussed. Topics included potential land parcels that could be applied to these goals, sources of funding and forms of ownership and program management.

While the commission members in attendance were very interested in the project, it was agreed that its scope is beyond the capacity of the three regularly active members of the commission.

Commission Membership and Suspension of Monthly Meetings

Chairwoman Stevens reported that she will not submit an application for reappointment when her current term on the Town Agriculture Commission expires this year. Recent efforts by Ms. Stevens to secure commitments from members Rick Barry, Luke Drake and Ian McSweeney to make stronger efforts to attend commission meetings were met with apologies and responses that personal and work commitments would not allow them to do so. It was then noted that this, in conjunction with Ms. Stevens' term on the commission ending, means it is unlikely a quorum will be reached at future meetings until the Board of Selectmen appoints some new members.

The Agriculture Commission then agreed to suspend its schedule of monthly meetings and to have Vice Chairman Malette ask Merry Rice in the Town Administrators office to suspend public notification of commission meetings until further notice.

Thank You Wendy Stevens

Mr. Malette and Mr. Little thanked Wendy Stevens for her years of volunteer leadership of the Town of Weare Agriculture Commission and for her strong support for all facets of local agriculture. They noted that her contributions have been extremely important to the Commission, local farming and the Town of Weare, and offered statements of appreciation and understanding, but also regret that she will no longer be part of the commission.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the September 6, 2012 meeting of the Town of Weare Agriculture Commission adjourned at 8:30 p.m.