

Pomfret Agricultural Commission Meeting  
Thursday, Jan 19th, 2016  
Pomfret Senior Center 7:00pm

In attendance

Chairman James Rowley

Secretary Bill Wood

John Wolchesky

Daniel Nagy

Regular meeting

A. Open regular meeting/roll call

Meeting opened at 7:03pm

B. Approval of minutes of Dec 15th 2016

John Wolchesky made a motion that the minutes be accepted as submitted. Bill Wood seconded and the motion carried.

C. Citizen participation and conversation

There were no citizens present at the meeting

II Current Business

A. Plan of conservation and development update

Chairman Rowley related that the POCD had been finalized.

B. Farmers market venue discussion/update

This agenda item was largely tabled since communication with the appropriate parties at The Pomfret Community school has stalled. There is also not a strong consensus amongst the Commission members that we should move forward with the market next season.

C. Farm to Plate: The commission is working to create an event at an area restaurant where local produce is showcased by local chefs for a charitable cause. As has been noted in previous minutes at the core of the concept is that the event would be a vehicle to celebrate and raise awareness surrounding Pomfret agriculture and its producers while engaging the community and serving a charitable mission. James Rowley discussed this idea with Barry Jessurun of the Vanilla Bean, who was excited about potentially working on this project with the commission. The middle of August is a possible time frame for a function to be held at the Vanilla Bean.

III. New Business

A. None

Adam Squire submitted that he would like to re-engage the effort to pay tribute to former Commission member Brad Beeler at the previous meeting. Andy Rzenikevich was contacted and is interested in getting some apple trees planted for deer at the Audubon in memory of Brad Beeler. April may be a good time to plant the trees, John may have some that he could sell to the commission.

IV. Other businesses

Increasing the limit for property tax exemption for farm equipment and implementing a property tax exemption for farm buildings was discussed. It was noted that both the neighboring towns of Woodstock and Brooklyn already have these exemptions in place. James Rowley is going to invite Craig Baldwin to the next meeting to discuss the town's position on supporting Pomfret Farms in this way.

A. Kids grow in Pomfret Abington Library, Sat May 13th 12-2 PM

Chairman Rowley related that the program is firm and the event is set to move forward.

B. Raised Beds for Kids Grow Program-growing plan for next year (working out details with Carrie Wolf

for PCS)

This agenda item was tabled until details of placement can be finalized.

D. Meeting date Feb 16th

The date was noted and accepted

V. Citizens Comments

No citizens present

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm