



Minutes
Pomfret Agricultural Commission
Thursday, July 19, 2012
Pomfret Senior Center
7:00 pm



Present: Ag Commission members: Ellsworth Chase, James Rowley, James Labbe, Brad Beeler
Guests: None noted.

1. **Open Meeting** - Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by Ellsworth Chase
2. **Review of Minutes** – James Rowley noted two minor wording corrections. James Labbe motioned to accept the June meeting minutes as corrected. Jim Rowley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Update on Pomfret Web Site** – Ellsworth Chase reviewed the new Ag Commission section on the town web site. All information is now up to date. A section was added “Documents of Interest” that will contain various key documents regarding ordinances, definitions, articles, events, etc.
 - b. **Member Package of Key Documents** – A package was given out to meeting members that contained four key documents regarding Ag Commission charge, definitions, etc. The objective is to help commission members be equipped with sufficient understanding of commission’s purpose and mission.
 - c. **Pomfret Grown Brochure** - Ellsworth Chase advised that the draft brochure with a revised write up was submitted before 7/1 in time to be scheduled in the next printing run. A copy of the draft was shared with all members. Copies should be available in August and ready for use at Positively Pomfret Day and as well as other uses. This is the 1st version and will be reviewed and revised as appropriate.
 - d. **POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development)** – Discussion timing and participation for input to other commissions. Ellsworth Chase will contact other commissions working this action to coordinate Ag involvement. Also a map of most important farmland soils will be obtained. Ellsworth Chase will prepare some draft language as a starting point for Commission to review and modify. The Ag Commission needs to work this action regarding what we want to see as expanded language in the new revision of POCD with regard to agriculture.
 - e. **Positively Pomfret Day** – Lengthy discussion on how the Ag Commission can best participate in this event. It was agreed that the intent was to “showcase” agriculture and not to necessarily promote products.

Ideas and suggestions include: farm animals, posters, demonstrations, Ag related displays, various material / handouts. The Pomfret Grown Brochure should be printed and available for this event.

A supplemental meeting to address this action is targeted for 7/31 at 7:00. Also, a communication should be sent to interested residents and those listed in the brochure asking for input and inviting them to participate.

4. Other

- a. Light Parade / Abington Social and Pomfret Libraries – the libraries will be the Grand Marshall in the Holidazzle Parade in December bringing attention the 300 anniversary of Pomfret next year. There was some discussion regarding how the Ag Commission might consider participating. This action needs further discussion.
- b. Brad Beeler discussed the concept of a “Seal of Quality Program” and the concept of considering Price / Quality balance. These concepts need further discussion as how to consider and/or embrace.

5. Future Agenda Items

- a. Opening remarks and general update
 - b. Pomfret Grown Brochure
 - c. Positively Pomfret Day
 - d. POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development)
 - e. Education and outreach
 - f. Other
- 6. Adjourn-** meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next Meeting is scheduled for 8/16, 7:00 PM at the Pomfret Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Ellsworth Chase