

Pomfret Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2015

In Attendance

James Rowley Chairman

Ellsworth Chase

Bill Wood

John Wolchesky

Brad Bealer

Adam Squire

Meeting Started at 7:00

Meeting Minutes for May 21, 2015 Submitted by James Rowley and approved

Motion was made to vote on installing Adam Squire as Secretary for the Ag Commission
Motion Seconded and approved by the group

There were no Citizens present so agenda Item for Citizens Commentary and discussion was closed

Pomfret Farmers Market was discussed. Current number of committed vendors fell below the 8 vendor threshold for a go or no go decision. The number of vendors required for the go or no go decision was revisited and confirmed that we would hold that number as the minimum number to move forward. It was decided that the group was confident that the remaining vendors could be courted before our July meeting date when we were to make a final decision. Bill Wood had solicited commitments from the existing vendor base and discussed some prospects with the group for further solicitation. Brad Bealer suggested we reach out to the vendors on the Vendor list that was compiled and presented in the Pomfret Farmers Market Viability study resulting from the Ag Commission Sub Committee.

The Farm to Plate diner concept was discussed. The venue of the Senior Center was talked about. Despite the positives of the physical plant there were some concerns about the functionality of the kitchen and the Health Department Licensing. It was also discussed that a more bucolic vista be used for the first such event. The commission agreed to continue to pursue the concept but to table the event as an event working in tandem with the One Day Farmers Market

The Pomfret Grown Brochure was revisited and it was agreed to distribute the remaining brochures while working on the copy and formatting for a revised version to be published after the current brochure is distributed. It was suggested that we could have a printing done for less than the cost of the printing for the initial brochure. Ellsworth Chase volunteered to distribute bundles of the brochures to the committee members so all could help in the distribution.

The Plan for Conservation and Development was discussed briefly and the consensus was that the Planning and Zoning Committee had accepted the report and was taking the recommendations contained therein into consideration.

The Farmers Market Grant Application was touched on. The deadline for submission had passed and the group talked about considering a more comprehensive proposal if the grant became available the following year.

The 15th Celebrating Agriculture event in Woodstock was discussed and the group decided not to pursue a formal booth or display but it was suggested that the Ag Commission banner could be displayed by Adam Squire as he was already committed to providing BBQ at the event.

New Business

Ideas for upcoming workshops were discussed. Canning and Pickling, Revisiting Honey Bees, Small poultry flock management, and Hog Management and Care were among the ideas posited

Education and Outreach, Ellsworth Chase suggested a partnership with the Killingly Agriculture School. Also Ellsworth Chase contributed the idea of exploring the concept of an incubator farm in Pomfret possibly on some land held either privately or by the town.

The Meeting Closed at 8:36

Meeting Minutes Accepted July 16, 2015
Respectfully Submitted

Adam Roy Squire
Secretary Pomfret Agricultural Commission