

Pomfret Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2015

In Attendance

James Rowley Chairman
James Labbe Vice Chairman
Ellsworth Chase
Bill Wood
John Wolchesky
Adam Squire Secretary

Citizen Attendance and Participation

Craig Baldwin
Daniel Nagey

I. Regular Meeting Started at 7:00pm

Minutes for Sept 17 2015 submitted by Adam Squire as recorded by Bill Wood

Minutes accepted Chairman James Rowley petitioned for earlier digital transmission of the minutes in advance of the meeting for ease of review

Citizens Participation and conversation

Craig Baldwin introduced himself as the Republican Candidate for First Selectman. He spoke briefly about his background and detailed that his presence at the meeting was a result of his due diligence process for his campaign and his interest in and commitment to supporting agriculture in Pomfret.

Daniel Nagey briefly introduced himself

II. Current Business

A. Pomfret Farmers Market 2016 proposed dates(July 22,29 Aug. 12,19)

There was some discussion surrounding how these perspective dates were selected. There was also discussion surrounding the need to keep these dates flexible in our planning process.

There was general agreement on this point and the agenda item was closed

B. Farm to Plate

There was no substantive discussion surrounding this concept the item continues to be tabled for future exploration

C. Pomfret Grown Brochure(PCS printer update)

Ellsworth Chase presented his exploration of a lower cost printing option for the brochure using resources within the town that could produce comparable quality of print at lower cost while allowing the Ag Commission to sponsor smaller runs of the brochure. This would allow the commission to update the document more fluidly so backlogs of preprinted outdated material would not stand in the way of keeping the document current. It was also suggested that while the best printing options are important to vet we should also begin to move the needle on updating content and layout for future publication.

D. Plan of Conservation and Development

This item was revisited and no new movement was confirmed. John Wolchesky vehemently asserted his interest in continuing to pursue The farm building tax exemption within the Ag Commission.

E. Farmers Market Grant Application

No new information or movement came to light. Tabled for future discussion

F. 15th Celebrating Agriculture Review

Adam Squire reflected the events success. Unbound Glory BBQ sold allot of meat despite attendance being down over the pervious years. There was brief discussion surrounding the impact other events such as Positively Pomfret Day may have had on this years attendance.

G. Positively Pomfret Day Review

It was agreed that the hay maze was well received this year. There was a brief discussion surrounding the optimal location for the Ag Commission booth. Citizen Daniel Nagey asked for an articulation of what the Commission is trying to accomplish through its participation in the event.

III. New Business

A. Upcoming Workshops(Canning and Preserving) spring meeting

This item was briefly discussed. No new action steps resulted. The plan continues that we will reengage our workshop planning process as the winter progresses.

B. Education and Outreach(Pomfret Community School)

There was brief engagement of this agenda item. There is consensus that engaging relationships with local schools is a valuable opportunity that warrants further exploration.

IV. Other Business

A. Future Agenda Items (Ag night open house, The history of farms in Pomfret)

These were noted as potential future agenda items

B. Meeting Date-Nov 19

The future meeting date was noted and confirmed

C. General Discussion

N/A

V. Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments were asserted throughout the meeting with contributions from both Craig Baldwin and Daniel Nagey

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Meeting Minutes Accepted Nov, 19 2015

Respectfully Submitted



Adam Roy Squire

Secretary Pomfret Agricultural Commission