

Pomfret Agricultural Commission Meeting
Thursday, Feb 16th, 2017
Pomfret Senior Center 7:00pm

In attendance:

Chairman James Rowley

Secretary Bill Wood

John Wolchesky

Daniel Nagy

Lance Cistern

Adam Squire

Donna Smith

Regular meeting

A. Open regular meeting/roll call

Meeting opened at 7:03pm

B. Approval of minutes of Jan 19th 2017

John Wolchesky made a motion that the minutes be accepted as submitted. James Rowley seconded

C. Citizen participation and conversation

There were no citizens present at the meeting

II Current Business

A. Farmers market venue discussion/update

Pass for 2017 remove from agenda. Adam Squire made a motion to cease farmer's market for 2017, was voted on and passed.

B. 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.

Update: It was determined that we should aim for Mid August as the goal to hold this event. The conversation of which charitable organization to benefit was started. Possible beneficiaries that were mentioned include TEEG, 4H, Uconn extension agency, Scholarship for a local kid. Some aspects that were considered in determining which charitable organization to benefit were the determining in which organizations mission is most in line with the agricultural commission purpose, which organization does the greatest amount of good, and which organization would be most able to work with the commission to reach the greatest number of customers and therefor have the greatest charitable effect.

C. Brad Beeler Memorial initiative: The commission has been discussing planting apple trees at the Audubon Society property in town in memory of Brad Beeler. The commission decided to revisit this topic during the March meeting to determine if the Apple trees will be planted in April or the following month, dependent on planting conditions.

III. New Business

A. None

IV. Other businesses

Increasing the limit for property tax exemption for farm equipment and implementing a property tax exemption for farm buildings:

James Rowley invited Craig Baldwin to the meeting to discuss this topic but he was unable to attend. Donna Smith attended the meeting on behalf of the town. James Rowley contacted Woodstock and Brooklyn to verify their deduction rates and passed it to Donna Smith. The argument was made that Pomfret is not supporting agriculture to the same extent as surrounding towns. Donna is going to contact comparable towns to see how they are setup.

A. Kids grow in Pomfret Abington Library, Sat May 13th 12-2 PM rain date May 20th.

Chairman Rowley related that the program is firm and the event is set to move forward. James, Bill, Lance have committed to be there, others still considering.

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.

C. Tractor Supply: Motion made to scrap tractor supply idea, voted on and accepted.

D. Meeting date March 16th

The date was noted and accepted

V. Citizens Comments

No citizens present

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm