

Concord Agriculture Committee
Thursday, January 14th at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Lise Holdorf, chair
Melissa Maxwell, clerk
Liza Bemis, member
Dan Schmid, member
Steve Verrill, member
Joe Rogers, visitor
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Grace Scimone, Scimone Farm
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Jane Hotchkiss, Concord Select Board

Called to order 7:02

Approve previous minutes Liza moves to approve, Steve seconds.

News about Concord Farms and farmers

Lise brought up the idea of the Ag Committee offering to support the Concord Board of Health in contacting farmers to ensure they receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is their turn under the state guidelines. Steve shared that he had been in meetings with the Town Manager and that the Town is waiting for word from the governor for vaccination plans. Lise offered to email the Concord Board of Health to offer the Ag committee's help in outreach to farms about the vaccine. Those in attendance agreed that this was a good plan.

Hutchins shared that they have ordered seeds and that seeds might again be in short supply as Johnny's Selected Seeds is already limiting sales to home gardeners to a few days a week. Barrett's Mill has also ordered their seeds, Steve is sending off his order tomorrow. Chip from Brigham Farm is about to do a strawberry plant order from Nourse and was looking for suggestions. Darselect, Cabot, Flavorfest, and Malwina were mentioned.

Spring Forum

Lise got in touch with Phil at Minuteman Media Network through BJ Dunn. It would be a tight turn around for them to film something for before the Ag Committee's planned demos in April but he would be interested in filming the demos either live or a zoom session so that they could be broadcasted. Steve is still interested in approaching Boston channels as well.

Idea for things to demo on farms were discussed by each farm. Barrett's Mill could do a field seeding demo. Brian would like to show his carousel planter, as well as hand planting. Dan at Walden Woods will look at his calendar and could be do a hand planting demo, greenhouse seeding, or putting in raised beds. Grace was thinking of

doing hand planting because they do everything the old-fashioned way at Scimone Farm. Brian has an old 70's potato planter that he could maybe demo, combined with some people cutting potatoes. Steve said he could also demo planters or cultivating equipment. A vacuum planter, carousel planter, and/or lettuce and greens cultivating equipment are all options.

The timing of the demos were discussed, Lise suggested a three week range 2-3 demos a week April 26-May 10th with alternate rain dates.

Chip shared that he plants strawberries in the spring and corn once a week, but both are hard to schedule ahead of time because of weather and the timing of his summer crew arriving. He will think about how he might be able to participate given the uncertain timing making it hard to plan.

Participants will provide Lise will information about their planned demos before next meeting. Farms who were not in attendance were listed as possible additional participants such as Brigham Greenhouses, Marshall Farm, Saltbox Farm, and Gaining Ground.

Steve will try to contact Ricky from Marshall Farm and Colonial Gardens, Melissa will contact Saltbox and Fan from Gaining Ground. Steve shared that Susan Macone might be able to show her tractors and flower garden. Lise mentioned that Bill from Kenney Farm already had a great video that he might be willing to share footage from.

It was agreed that everyone will write a sentence with a demo idea for their farm and email it to Lise so she can share it with other farms folks to recruit more participants. Next meeting we will get a calendar together and make a plan.

Joe Rogers shared that he thinks the demos are a great idea, especially videos that could be done without a live audience and made available for interested folks to watch and learn from at a later date. He had the idea of putting together clips and developing a library of instructional videos.

Annual Report

Everyone approved.

Other business

Public Comment

Next meeting

Scheduled for Thursday February 11th, 7pm.