

Concord Agriculture Committee
Thursday, July 11, 2019, 7pm
Assessor's Office, 24 Court Lane, Concord, MA

Present:

Happy Goethert, chair
Brian Cramer, member
Steve Verrill, member
Emily Wheeler, member
Melissa Maxwell, associate member

Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm, visitor

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

News about Concord farms and farming

Emily reported that she met Kristin Kazmeier of Riverfront Farms. Also that Gaining Ground will be hosting a NOFA workshop on Sunday on soil health and no-till farming.

Melissa said that Barbara Powell of the Concord Housing Foundation relayed that CHF remains eager to speak further with Minuteman national Historical Park about farmer housing within the park. The group discussed types of affordable housing historically. Happy circulated a newspaper article about 19C North Carolina rooming houses for unmarried teachers and mill workers. Chip noted that the house Susan Macone lives in was once a Wheeler Farm boarding house for farm workers.

Corn coming!

Brian reported that the Pollinator Committee will meet at the Peter Spring field next Tuesday, July 16, at 6:30pm.

Melissa said there's been a lot of interest in the Farm Passport. They need more copies.

Ag Day market September 14

Happy will submit the form to the Town reserving the date. We want to confirm with the new Town Manager that the Ag Committee won't be charged for the police detail, as it was last year—for the first time in all the years of the Ag Day market.

Happy has asked the State mounted police to be at the market.

Happy has sent the market vendor form to farmers. Response date is August 15.

Emily will contact non-profit groups that have attended in the past. Melissa said that Margot Kimball has offered, with the Umbrella and the farmers of ACT, to create a banner. Melissa will follow up with Margot about doing this and what the charge will be.

Food: Invite Reasons to Be Cheerful. Ask Saltbox whether they will sell breakfast goodies. Steve said Verrill Farm will likely have baked goods for sale.

Music: Emily will contact Sawyer Lawson about playing.

Publicity:

- ✂ Happy will keep trying for publication in the Concord Journal and will submit an article to Action Unlimited.
- ✂ Instagram updates. Emily reported that a Colonial Gardens staff member has just created their account and will connect with #farmsofconcord.
- ✂ The AgComm web page needs updating with the Farm Passport, summer farm tours, Ag Day market, and Stone Soup Dinner. Emily to contact the Natural Resources Division webmaster.
- ✂ We need a new banner to go across Main Street and new signs for sandwich boards and posting. Design to be based on Passport. Enlist Lise to help with design. Steve has information about banner making companies that he'll circulate.

Funding: Chip said that Stone Soup would underwrite publicity for Ag Day once it receives a budget. This would include banners, sandwich board signs, posters, etc.

Farm tours

Verrill will offer Pick Your Own Corn on Sunday, August 25 and Sunday, September 15.

Barretts Mill looking at Saturday, August 17.

Hutchins will let us know.

Marshall?

Stone Soup Dinner, Sunday, September 22

Steve proposes promoting it with a uniform sign for each farm using the Passport design.

For the program speaker, invite the new Ag Comm Select board liaison, Jane Hotchkiss, to speak before we announce Passport winners?

Other business: June 2 Summer Social

Emily said she thought the event at Barretts Mill Farm was nicely done, hospitable, and complete with thunderstorm and rainbow. We'll follow up with our invited guests to thank them and encourage them to attend our monthly meetings in the hope that some will wish to join as members. Living in Concord is a prerequisite—and not all Concord farmers/ friends of farming do. Happy noted, from the Chair Breakfast, that the Planning Division is now allowing “accessory units” on residential properties, which may open up affordable options. Also that the Concord Housing Authority will be taking over the (relatively few) federal units in town.

Next meeting & interim discussion

Next meeting is August 15.

Steve moved to continue discussion via e-mail about Ag Day planning and publicity as needed. All approved, no objections.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 9pm.

Minutes submitted by Emily Wheeler

Approved: sept 5, 2019
Carolyn Goethert, chair