

Concord Agriculture Committee
September 5th, 2019
Assessor's Office, 24 Court Lane

Present:

Emily Wheeler, member
Happy Goethert, chair
Melissa Maxwell, member
Lise Holdorf, clerk
Steve Verrill, member
Brian Cramer, member
BJ Dunn, Superintendent, Minute Man National Park

Meeting called to order at 7:03

Minutes

July and August minutes were approved as amended.

News

BJ Dunn shared that Minute Man National Park (through Codman Farm) now has 21 pigs in the field behind Noah Brooks' tavern. Neighbors didn't like the smell so they have been relocated. The Park is looking for farmers with goats (about 10) to pasture on park land. The one farmer they had been talking with wasn't interested in signing the permit. Melissa suggested approaching Clark Farm in Carlisle.

Summer is over, it has cooled down and tomatoes are slowing production.

Ag Day

Happy circulated a proposed market map for farmers to approve. Non-profit spots were finalized at the meeting. Community Chest, Garden Club, Select Board, Land Trust, Concord Sustainability Division, Concord Library (hopefully with mobile tricycle library), Mothers out Front, League of Women Voters, Minute Man Park will all attend. Tom Ruggles will perform at noon.

Lise can get bean bag toss frames, Happy will make bean bags. Lise thought they could also make a giant Jenga set.

The Farm Passport was advertised in Action Unlimited two weeks ago.

The Boston Globe had a write-up on Ag Day in the West Informer.

There are now 3 sandwich boards up around town - two in Concord Center (Middlesex Bank, and triangle) and one in West Concord. The Town has also blown up the poster and put it in a sandwich board holder in West Concord and on the triangle in Concord Center. Emily has put up flyers. BJ will put up the flyer in the Visitor Center since they are participating in the event, and he will also put it up on their social media.

Barrett's Mill Farm has 3 more signs to paint. The next ones will go in front of Verrill, Hutchins and Marshall.

The banner has been delivered to the Light Plant. Emily spoke with Dave Wood and they will put it up for 8 days (Friday-Friday). The National Park has an event the following Saturday and their banner will go up afterwards. The Light Plant has new, more stringent requirements for banners, so the new banner is more expensive (about \$750). The plywood and base paint for the sandwich board signs was over \$100, the stencil was \$48 (bill should be going straight to the Town), Velcro for affixing the signs to sandwich board was about \$25, musicians will be \$200. Liza will submit the costs for setting up the website.

Booking a space in the Concord Book Shop window for the upcoming year opens up in August. Amy Noordzij (from the Garden Club) encouraged the Committee to reserve a spot for next year as soon as possible. She and Alicia from the Garden Club set up the window this year. Emily suggested collecting photos over the next year to put in the window. The book shop chooses the books (only ones that they carry) for the display.

September 12th, 2020 was proposed for next year's Ag Day. Emily will reserve the window for the week leading up to Ag Day.

Happy will get a bell for opening and closing the market. Emily has chalk left over from last year for marking spots. Emily will try to enlist Dudley Goar and Jo-Ann Lovejoy (prior members of the Ag Committee) to help. Marking will start at 8am and farms can set up at 9am. Emerson Umbrella will have the grand opening for their new building on the same day. Saltbox will not be supplying breakfast treats, but Verrill will bring baked goods.

Jen Verrill would like to hear from the farms about what is available for Stone Soup.

If Silferleaf can't attend the market, we will offer to sell his raspberry jam and infusion tacked on to someone else's stand.

The Pollinator Committee will come to the market to hand out information, but they will not have a table.

Marshall Farm will bring a goat to the market. Scimone Farm may bring a chicken. Last year the library had some goats from Carlisle on their front lawn during Ag Day. This year they will have a dwarf goat inside the library.

Non-profits will need to provide their own tables.

Stone Soup

Farmers will set up displays for their farms at the event. The Farm Passport drawing will be at Stone Soup.

Next Meeting October 10th
Meeting adjourned at 8:17

Minutes submitted by Lise Holdorf

Approved: Carolyn Goethert, chair
Dec 19, 2019