

Canterbury Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes 4/21/26

DRAFT

Mark Stevens called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

Members Present: Mark Stevens, Josh Marshall, Daimon Meeh, Jill McCullough, Calvin Todd

Members Absent: Eric Glines, Nicole Glines, Katie Archer, Corinne Pullen

Guests: Jesse Scanlon, Eleftheria Malesiada

- Eleftheria “Ellie” Malesiada guest from UNH to discuss agrivoltaics
 - Studying the economic viability of agrivoltaics
 - Conducting interviews and looking for participants in farmer and municipality focus groups about the barriers to creation of more agrivoltaics. If there are any willing members contact Ellie at Eleftheria.Malesiada@unh.edu
- Members expiring/expired
 - Josh Marshall - willing to re-engage.
 - Katie Archer - Not present Jill will follow up
 - Nicole Glines - Not present Mark will follow up
- Approval of the October minutes
 - Josh moved to approve minutes as presented
 - Seconded Jill
 - No discussion, unanimous approval
- Treasurers Report
 - Budget for 2026 \$500 most of which goes to pay for emails but there could be a little available if any member wanted to take a training relevant to being a member of the Agricultural Commission
- Jill confirmed as Canterbury Farmers Market liaison
 - Jill will work with Katie to organize communication between the Ag Commission and the Canterbury Farmers Market.
- Right to know meeting on May 19th 7:00PM at the Town Hall
 - Mandatory attendance for members of the committee.
- Land Use Board meeting at 7 PM 4/23
 - Joint meeting of the land use board meetings to give opportunities to provide input on new ordinances and warrant articles.
 - Mark has held one seat for someone on the board. He is not planning on attending. Asked if other members could attend but there were not any that were able to.
- Mark discussed how there were some missed opportunities for consultation of the Ag commission. He brought up some laws that in the past the Ag Commission may have commented on in the past
 - Class VI road RSA 674:41, discussion about how that loosens up requirements for building on Class VI roads. Mark thinks it is something that could affect a number of farms since it may mean more traffic on class VI roads that may have only gotten infrequent use other than for farming activities.
 - Cluster development in Canterbury, would have liked the Planning Board to consult the Ag Commission while developing the ordinance. Mark thinks that the intent of the cluster development ordinance is intended to preserve more open space. However Mark doesn't think that it accomplishes that because it disadvantages the cluster development too much to get chosen as an option.

- Point of the discussion is that we did not ask for or have the opportunity to provide discussion on these laws and ordinances. Mark is suggesting that the Ag Commission be more proactive about providing feedback about new laws and ordinances.
- Calvin asked what the desired purview of the Ag Commission? When would we like to be consulted?
 - **This was marked as an important future agenda item for discussion**
- Mark also discussed the wetland structure setback, he was unclear if there were Ag provisions for needed crossings. Members stated that we should investigate and provide some input as needed.
- Updated on seedlings for the Tricentennial
 - Maple seedlings collected by Daimon and Jill as well as seeds planted by Mark are doing well. Other species do not have much activity yet.

New Business

- Election of new officers
 - Mark Stevens is resigning from the chair position and is looking for a replacement but is happy to stay on the committee. Doesn't mind being vice chair but would be reluctant because that has put him back into the Chair position a few different occasions.
- Daimon was asked to share words representing the Ag Commission at the Brookford Farm. He shared words about the value of agriculture in the town identity and that Brookford contributes to that with their farming activities, events and now the new farm store.

Old Business

- Canterbury Agricultural Farm Map
 - Josh still needs to identify a definition of agriculture but has questions of the members.
 - What is the goal? Is it to advertise for local farms like the previous version or is it for understanding the landscape of agriculture in town in order to inform town rules and ordinances? Where is it being used?
 - **Future agenda items for discussion:**
 - **What should the goal of the map be?**
 - **In the past the Ag commission has been asked to determine if a farm is a homestead or a farm.**
 - **Agrotourism or other conflicts**
 - Jill recommends not doing it again as an advertising focus

Motion to adjourn Daimon, Josh seconded. Adjourned 8:14 PM

Minutes recorded by Secretary Daimon Meeh