

Ag Commission Meeting 6/23/2026

Call to meeting: 6:03 meeting called by a quorum

Members present: Jill McCullough, Mark Stevens, Daimon Meeh

Members absent: Katie Archer, Eric Glines

Alternates: Jessie Scanlon

Selectmen Representative Calvin Todd

Guests present: Beth Blair, Scott Doherty. Ben Davis joined at 6:11

Since there is no current chair Mark was asked to serve as the parliamentarian.

Jessie Scanlon elevated to member by the parliamentarian.

1. Election of a new Chairman.

- At the beginning of the meeting Mark nominated Jill for chair, Daimon seconded for discussion.
- Mark mentioned that Eric had told him he would be willing to continue as vice chair.
- Jill's reason to be willing to step in is to get the commission to review and renew the mission statement and bylaws but is not sure she is willing to commit. In the interest of time when the Selectboard is able to be in attendance, Mark withdrew nomination and asked for it to be tabled for later in the meeting and select a parliamentarian to run the meeting until discussion can be had.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 21 April 2026 meeting.

After a couple of minor formatting and spelling corrections Jill moved to accept the minutes and Josh seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. Discussion of questions raised at the Selectman's Meeting of 18 May 2026.

- Daimon felt like it was a reminder to be aware of the structure of the commission and a discussion of an identified knowledge and communication gap where improvements could be made.
- Mark is frustrated that there was a lengthy discussion at the selectman meeting without the Ag Commission present. He also felt much that was discussed was negative and inaccurate. Mark discussed the origin of the Ag Commission and the need for the Selectman to consult the Ag Commission on policies.
- Scott, said that he didn't recall it being that critical but he will go back and watch to see but said that he would like to apologize for the frustration it caused.
- Beth felt the discussion was intended to be positive but a way of pointing out where there seems to be a break down of communication
- Scott had suggestions.
 - Invite new selectboard members to a meeting to introduce them. When he was new the Library invited him to a meeting and he felt that was very helpful and memorable.
 - Put together a one page fact sheet about the responsibilities of the Ag Commission
- Scott mentioned that as a newer farm to town he and his wife didn't know about the Ag Commission.
- Calvin shared his thoughts that there was room for improvement in communication and he has had a hard time understanding the Ag Commission's focus since there have only been a few meetings in the past 18 months in which to interact and get up to speed.

4. Right To Know training status.

Members who were not able to attend the in person meeting must watch the recording and report to Hal.

5. UNH Solar-Agriculture project interview update.

They reached back out to Mark and he answered the survey. They were very appreciative.

6. Status of Tricentennial Trees

Jill has 35 or so sugar maples sprouted. Josh and Ben may take one. Mark is still working on organizing the cultivation of them. The goal is to have 300 seedlings by the spring of 2027.

7. Return to discussion of new chair

- Jill nominates Mark, Daimon seconds to open discussion
 - Discussion followed about who could be chair and what supports could be available to help the new chair. Josh doesn't feel he has the capacity to fulfil the needs of the board and Daimon has similar concerns. Daimon did say he is willing to serve as chair which then Jill replied that she would serve as chair and Eric could continue as vice chair or Daimon could move into that position. Daimon will check in with Eric about his preference. Mark declines the nomination.
- Mark motions to nominate Jill, seconded Jessie.
 - Further discussion, Jill is concerned about the ability to communicate via the town communication because of all the problems with that system, but as long as she can have some assistance from the town Jill would serve as chair. Mark moves for a vote seconded by Jessie. Unanimous vote to approve. Jill is elected as Chair of the Canterbury Agricultural Commission.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- Josh described the new initiative from the Division of Travel and Tourism where they revived the NH Ice Cream Trail.
- Corrinne resigned, as chair Jill will nominate Jesse as a full member and Ben Davis as an alternate.
- Tentative next meeting is planned for August 11th at 7:00PM if there is availability of the Meeting House
 - Proposed agenda items
 - Are there ways of hosting occasional meetings at a farm?
 - Regular meeting schedule plan

Motion to adjourn Josh, Jill seconded, unanimous. Meeting adjourned 7:58 PM

Minutes recorded by Secretary Daimon Meeh