

**TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
May 9, 2012**

PRESENT: Michelle Niedermeyer, *Chairman*; Kate Bogli, Steven Hayes, Erin Pirro, Lanie Neumann

GUESTS: Lana Torres, Pam Burek, Bob Brockett, John Pirro

Michelle Niedermeyer confirmed a quorum and began the meeting at 8:09 PM.

APPROVE MINUTES: ON A MOTION BY Kate Bogli, seconded by Erin Pirro, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of December 14, 2011 as written (5-0).

OLD BUSINESS

Michelle Niedermeyer announced officially that Don Butler has resigned from the Ag Commission.

OPEN FARM DAY – September 8, 2012 (10:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Project Management

- There are 10 confirmed farms participating.
- Ms. Niedermeyer asked the Ag Commission if there were any comments/suggestions or changes to the Open Farm Day Policy.
- A lively discussion ensued as to the structure of Open Farm Day. For example, should there be scheduled tours, and if so how would that work? Given the diversity of farms in Granby it was decided that participating farms should decide individually what works for them. Ms. Niedermeyer stressed to the Ag Commission in order for the Open Farm Day to be a success the participating farms must show a strong presence and interest when customers visit their farm on the day.
- Another lively discussion ensued as to the best way to coordinate communication between Agricultural Commission and participating farmers.
- A comment was made by a guest that perhaps 4H Club or FFA could ‘assist’ a farm in need of extra hands on that day.

Participating Farms

- Ms. Niedermeyer read through the list of participating farms and asked other Agricultural Commission members to contact the ‘maybes’.

Promotion

- **Press Release & Media List:** Kate Bogli will update several existing media lists and make contact with the media. Erin Pirro will write a press release.

Needed

- There was discussion on how to handle printed materials for Open Farm Day. Pam Burek, Lana Torres and Ms. Niedermeyer will come to the next meeting with solid ideas for a map, passbook and a branding logo for Open Farm Day. The Open Farm Day materials may be separate pieces or amalgamated. Ms. Niedermeyer stated that by the next Agricultural Commission meeting—June 13—the goal is to finalize all these materials; how they will look, how they will work, etc.
- Steven Hayes commented something that should be completed right away is getting the Open Farm Day listed on the electronic calendars from the Media List websites.

Grange Promotion

- The Open Farm Day is a fundraiser for the Granby Grange and will compliment the Grange's Annual Chicken BBQ dinner to be held from 5-7 PM on September 8, 2012.

FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FARMS

Michelle Niedermeyer asked for a volunteer to set up the Agricultural Commission on a Facebook page. She noted that with so much going on for Open Farm Day this could wait.

WEBSITE CONTENT

This item was not discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Torres and Ms. Burek introduced themselves and stated they may consider joining the Agricultural Commission in the future.
- Kate Bogli stated that the Wells Road School is making steady progress with the new Composting Program.
- Michelle Niedermeyer pointed out that Erin Pirro has been writing the *Granby Locally Grown* article for the *Drummer* for some time. Michelle suggested to Ms. Torres and Ms. Burek that writing this article is a good way to get to know the farmers and that perhaps one of them—if they join the Ag Commission—would be interested in taking it on.
- Lanie Neumann stated that after this meeting, regrettably, she will be resigning from the Agricultural Commission. Ms. Neumann's many other commitments, including one that coincides with the regular Agricultural Commission meetings was the deciding factor in handing in her resignation.

ADJOURNMENT: ON A MOTION BY Steven Hayes, seconded by Kate Bogli the Commission voted (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tappenden
Recording Secretary