

**TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
October 10, 2012**

PRESENT: Michelle Niedermeyer, *Chairman*;
Kate Bogli*, Pam Burek, Steven Hayes, Erin Pirro, Lucy Lindeyer

GUESTS: Bob Brockett, Jeff Pirro

Michelle Niedermeyer confirmed a quorum and began the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

APPROVE MINUTES: ON A MOTION BY Pam Burek, seconded by Steven Hayes, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of September 12, 2012 as written (5-0).

OLD BUSINESS

OPEN FARM DAY

- Michelle Niedermeyer suggested that the Agricultural Commission brainstorm ideas for next years OPEN FARM DAY at the November 2012 Ag Commission meeting.
- There had been some loose discussion in past meetings about the possibility of having a parade at next years Open Farm Day. It was decided that a parade would not add value to Open Farm Day---some of those reasons included a high cost, logistics, preparation time and stretching resources. Steve Hayes suggested that instead of a parade perhaps use the Granby Grange facility and have a Kids Tractor Pull or selection of tractors.
- Michelle Niedermeyer stated that about 200 Passports were completed; and well over half of those Passports people visited 6 farms or more. Other statistics included about half of the Open Farm Day visitors were not from Granby; and in addition farmers are stating how their business has increased substantially since Open Farm Day.

*Agricultural Commission Member, Kate Bogli arrived at 7:20 P.M.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Agricultural Commission will present a marketing education program January 2013. The event may be 2 hours in length and may be in one session or two. The Ag Commission would like to present "How to Use Social Media" for marketing. Michelle Niedermeyer asked Kate Bogli to contact a person whom Kate knows who would be a good choice to present this topic. The Ag Commission would like the guest speaker to use a hands-on approach—not just a lecture. The point is to educate farmers on how to maximize free social media for advertising.

NEW BUSINESS

- Erin Pirro asked the Ag Commission if the Town of Granby First Responders have training in farm animal knowledge/care. Kate Bogli recommended that Erin speak with Granby's Animal Control Officer.
- Erin Pirro discussed a current Connecticut court case which may impact ruling on farms with horses. Michelle Niedermeyer commented that Erin raises a good point in general---and that is---should the Ag Commission come up with a central place to disseminate important issues for farmers? The Ag Commission could provide a value added service by putting the hot topics out there—perhaps in Drummer, local media, other network.
- Kate Bogli mentioned that she would like to write an article for the Drummer regarding the composting program currently underway at Wells Road School.
- Lucy Lindeyer commented that in Vermont there is a program where a Kindergarten class or First Grade class is matched with a local farm/farmer for a year. The children learn "farm" to "table".

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT: ON A MOTION BY Steven Hayes, seconded by Pam Burek the Commission voted (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Tappenden
Recording Secretary