

4-3-18 Shelburne Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

Carolyn Wheeler Beth Manning Jonathan Graves Kevin Hollister  
Ernest Kelley Courtney Basil Prudence Wholey, sec.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Carolyn Wheeler.

The minutes of the last meeting 12-5-17 were read and approved after correction.

We welcomed our new board member, Courtney Basil who is manager at Apex Orchard.

Kevin Hollister came to the meeting to give us some pointers for our planned harvest dinner on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. He said that he and the Kiwanis would be willing to help us. Carolyn has spoken to Marion Scott about using the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center for the dinner, so we can have two sittings. The total rental would be \$500. Kevin says we'd have to provide all the paper goods, but all the other items are available. The kitchen is sufficient for our purposes except for the limited oven space. He suggests we use some roasters and the warming trays they have there. We would need a larger number of people to clear and reset the tables in between sittings, but that having a buffet is the easier way to serve. Each sitting could feed 125 people maximum. First sitting 5:15, second 7 pm.

A tentative menu would include beef, pork, lamb (stew), and possibly turkey. We would have cabbage, winter squash, applesauce (?), and potatoes. We want to have as much Shelburne grown food as possible. For dessert we might have fruit crisp and ice cream. Rolls and Cabot butter and milk. Coffee Roasters coffee, etc.

Tickets can be printed at Staples. Two colors, one for each sitting.

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For the town's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, we want to have the centennial farms showcased with photos at the church or somewhere highly visible. Carolyn wants some more photos. We could make 8 x 10 prints of some. Maybe a slide show at one of the venues.

We could have photos or a banner on some of the old tractors in the parade or have a small wagon/trailer in the parade.

There could be a farm tour on the 30<sup>th</sup> (Sept.) Any farm could be open if they wanted to participate.

Carolyn mentioned applying for a Wells Fund grant. She will ask Diantha Wholey about it, since Diantha does the one for the Grange Fair. (It's too late for this year, deadline was in March.)

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Ernie Kelley mentioned that he and Shu Li went to the recent agricultural seminar at Mohawk. He was particularly interested in the use of social media for promotion. He likes the social interaction between farmers.

Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange had a meeting of new farmers at the store last month. About 70 people attended. Jeff Budine plans on having another meeting in the future. It's a good venue to help farmers connect and offer moral support in these trying times for (dairy) farmers.

In that vein, we discussed having a potluck for town farmers. A social evening.

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Ernie also spoke about Kelley Farm's viability grant for equipment and repairs. He also talked about farmer's markets. They will be going to Great Barrington this summer on a half season basis.

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Lauri Marder from the Shelburne Historical Society will be interviewing Gordon Taylor on Friday at Beth's (his old home). We want to have more of the elder farm people interviewed as well. Courtney will see about Dot Smith (through Tim). Other would include Helen Gould, the Dole brothers, Coombs, Williams, etc.

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The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15, at 7 pm at the fire station.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.