



Minutes
Hampton AGvocate
Wednesday, August 18, 2010
7 pm
Hampton Town Hall

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 7 pm, Hampton Town Hall

Present: Bruce Kittredge, Ron Gluck, Tim Huchthausen, Kate Donnelly, Jennifer Kaufman

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm
- II. Minutes--Tim motioned to approve the minutes of July 21. Bruce seconded. Motion carried.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Update on Right to Farm Ordinance—Bruce motioned that the Town of Hampton use the Lebanon Right to Farm ordinance as their model. Tim seconded. Motion carried. Jennifer will update the RTF and forward it along to the committee for final approval in September. Kate stated that the RTF ordinance would go to Town Meeting in May unless there was another item that needed to be acted prior to then.
 - b. Update on Agricultural Product and Services Inventory/Brochure-Jennifer distributed a list of Agricultural Product and Service Providers developed from the Last Green Valley 2009 Farm survey. The committee will work on correcting the errors and ensuring that it includes accurate and complete information. Bruce said that he would be willing to contact the people on the list to see if they want to be included in an agricultural brochure. Jennifer will make edits to the list based on the discussion at the meeting. She will also forward an example listing and a letter that was distributed in Thompson.

The committee also discussed the possibility of completing a survey of the ag producers in town to more effectively understand their needs.
 - c. Follow-up with PZC—The committee discussed if they should follow up with PZC. It was determined that once the RTF was finalized it would be sent to PZC with a cover letter letting them know what the committee was doing. The committee agreed that they should keep PZC, the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectman apprised of their activities so that these boards know that the AGvocate is a resource for information regarding agriculture. It was also discussed that they should request

that regulation changes impacting agriculture or subdivision proposals adjacent to or on prime farmland be referred to the AGvocate committee for input.

IV. New Business

- A. Tax Reduction Programs—Existing Tax reduction programs in Hampton were discussed. The committee will continue to determine what tax reduction programs are appropriate. Hampton has adopted:
- The municipal option to abate property taxes on dairy farms only. This abatement is 25%.
 - The municipal option to exempt property taxes for any building used actually and exclusively in farming
- B. Definition of a Farm: It was determined that the definition of farm should be inclusive for the purposes of the AGvocate Program. The Board of Selectmen, assessor and tax collector should be the entity that determines whether certain farms qualify for tax exemptions or abatements. The AGvocate committee can certainly weigh in on this issue.

V. Other—Bruce Kittredge stated that he would like to foster new and young farmers in Hampton. Determining ways to identify and support the rental of farmland in Hampton was also discussed.

VI. Announcements

- a. November 29 Workshop-Jennifer discussed that the November AGvocate Workshop will discuss tax issues. Both the 490 program and how towns are implementing other exemptions and abatements for farms will be discussed.
- b. Jennifer announced the meeting with Joe Courtney meeting in Mansfield Council Chambers from 6pm-7pm on Thursday, August 19, 2010.Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

VII.Future Agenda Items

- A. Reviewing the Plan of Conservation and Development
- B. Organizational Structure- Developing an ordinance to establish a permanent Agriculture Commission
- C. Continue with the Agriculture Products and Services Brochure.Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.