

Lanesborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2007

Attendees: regular members - Pete Gallant, Prudy Barton, Marv Michalak
alternate members - Darlene Newton, Aimee Thayer

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. in the Planning Board Room at the Lanesborough Town Hall.

Review of Minutes - Minutes from May 3rd and June 7th were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the June 7th minutes with a correction that Darlene Newton also was in attendance. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the May 3rd minutes as written.

Old Business

- 1. Farm Inventory Survey** - Prudy provided the copy of the survey with the question added to gauge interest in the DAR signage program. The Chair will send a request to the Assessors for a list of the names and addresses of residents and landowners in the Residential Agricultural (RA) Zone in town to use to develop a list for mailing of the survey. The Commission will review the list for corrections, modifications and additions and finalize it at the next meeting. Most likely, the Committee will take up the Animal Inspector's offer of funds to support the mailing of the survey.
- 2.** The commission discussed the **Special Town Meeting** which was held on June 26th. As it turned out the Tree Committee's proposed by law turned was not included on the warrant and was not discussed. To the Commission's knowledge, no public hearing has yet been scheduled to discuss the bylaw.
- 3.** Aimee reported that she had not yet connected with Nathan L'Etoile of the Farm Bureau regarding the scheduling of a informational meeting regarding the changes and provisions of the **Chapter 61, 61A and 61B** regulations on taxation of forest, agricultural and recreation land. Therefore, no further plans could be made to sponsor such a meeting. She noted that the recently mailed 1st and 2nd quarter tax bills did not provide sufficient information to judge whether or not the new regulations had been applied.
- 4.** No written correspondence had been received from any residents of the upper North Main Street, Scott and Kessler road area regarding the problems with **Off-Road Vehicle use** in the area. Within the last month Aimee had received a report from one farmer that there had been destruction of alfalfa fields caused by these vehicles and from another about rampant trespassing on private land. Also, there has been trespassing on Savage Hill and through an area where signs were posted prohibiting motorized vehicles on a State owned parcel of endangered and protected species habitat. Marv pointed out that the noise issue was not limited to these vehicles and that snowmobiles also were destructive to commercial plantings of Christmas trees in the past. The Commission discussed drafting a letter to the Select Board documenting the problems and decided to hold off for the time being, not wishing to exacerbate the problem. If residents and landowners wish to make formal complaints, the Commission may formally weigh in on the problem from an Ag point of view in the future if our opinion is solicited or if we feel it could advance a solution to the problem.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Next meetings and Adjournment

Members confirmed the next meeting date for September 6th. Marv asked for a reminder call a couple of days beforehand. A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.