

Lee Agricultural Commission Minutes

September 24, 2019

Present: Erick Sawtelle, Chuck Cox, Dwight Barney, Paul Gasowski, Donna Lee Woods, Amanda Gourgue, Laura Gund and Selectmen's representative, Cary Brown.

Minutes of August 27, 2019: Dwight moved to accept these minutes as read, Donna Lee seconded and they were accepted as read.

Finance: At this time, there is \$2003.10 in the Farmers Market account and \$3232.00 in the Commission account. Additionally, the Lee Fair brought in \$3335.00 with \$1488.90 expenses, leaving \$1930.00 with a few items left to pay.

Lee Fair: We served 385 (+/-) dinners; 154 of them were chicken, the remainder, pork. We ran out of chicken and baked beans. Paul spoke regarding the composting by the Sustainability Committee: they filled 1 and ½ barrels of compost and felt, all in all, that it was a success. We discussed the issue of parking at the fair (a problem, hopefully to be resolved by next year), shuffling food back and forth from the Grange, etc. The fair committee will be working on the parking issue.

Chuck moves that we give \$350 to the Grange for the use of the building for cooking and storing food during the fair. Paul 2nds and the motion passes. This year we did not put the big tent up because of the possibility of severe weather. Paul commented that people actually enjoyed eating out "under the stars" and then watching the fireworks. Donna Lee commented on how great Tina Sawtelle's flower arrangements are that are on the tables each year. "Thank you, Tina." Cary thought the whole fair was great!

The "Best of Harvest" was a success, but some changes are coming up next year. Farm Games were enjoyed by 19 youngsters, aged 2 – 10, and 14 adults. We discussed plans to put the farm games in the middle of the field next year where more people would enjoy them.

Backyard Farming Initiative: The committee will be meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the "Lee Use Less" Campaign for next years' initiative, working with the Sustainability Committee. There will be regular Monday night sessions next year with occasional workshops at the Farmers Market.

Annual Budget: After some discussion, Paul made a motion to ask for \$1000 for our next years' budget, Chuck seconded. The motion passed with three in favor, one against and 2 abstentions.

Sustainability Committee: Lee Use Less = "Useless Contest": the Committee is promoting this contest, to enter the most useless item you have in your home. In October, they will be tracking items in the bins at the Transfer Station, to see where they all end up. In December there will be a pot luck meal and then they will be assisting with the Backyard Farming Initiative.

The meeting ended with a general discussion about our future, as farms continue to disappear – where will our food come from, etc.

Next meeting will be October 29, 2019 at 6:30.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund.