

Lee Agricultural Commission

June 27, 2017

Present: Amanda Gourgue, Erick Sawtelle, Dwight Barney, Paul Gasowski, Jonathan Kohanski and Laura Gund. Also attending the meeting was Kristen Cisneros as an observer.

Minutes: Minutes of the May 30, 2017 meeting were approved, pending the removal of one sentence regarding the fair. Paul moved to accept the minutes with the change, Dwight seconded and the motion was approved.

Financial: Nothing new as of this date. There is some Farmers' Market money to be deposited.

Lee Fair: According to Paul, the Fair Games are all set. Kristen will do the Best of Harvest contest once again. Folks liked the prizes that she provided last year and she will do that again. There will be some changes this year in judging. Last year she spent about \$30 on prizes. Laura moved that Kristen could spend up to \$50 on prizes. Motion seconded and approved.

Paul discussed using local chicken to serve at the fair. He has done some research in Lee and other local towns on the cost of fresh chicken. Kristin suggested making a tentative survey questionnaire, asking whether local chicken or super market chicken would be the preferred way to go. Would they be willing to pay more for local chicken?

Looking for someone to supervise the horseshoe tournament.

Backyard Farming Initiative: Discussed topics for next year. Kristin suggested gearing towards new folks in town and to folks who might be new to gardening/farming, as well as young people. Amanda said the Master Gardeners could provide information on canning and freezing garden produce. There is interest, apparently, in the processing of food. Also, people might like more information on raising animals – “backyard farming” - as well as container gardening.

UNH survey: The UNH Agricultural Experiment Station is doing a survey on Farmers Markets. Erick suggested we check this out.

Newsletter: Amanda gave a report on the newsletter, which was that not much is happening. She did do some work on possible changes to the existing e-crier, and e-mailed that to all of us. She will keep us informed.

Next meeting will be July 25, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund