

Plainfield Agricultural Commission Minutes - June 5, 2020 – Through Zoom

Present: Anna Hanchett, Bi-sek Hsiao, Ed Stockman, Sadie Stull, and Anne Williamson

- I. Approved minutes of May 7, 2020 with addition of 2 letters to be attached, Letter written in support of a Small Communities Planning Grant and letter in opposition to unrestricted mosquito spraying in Massachusetts.
  
- II. Post Office Garden
  - A. We discussed the possibility of planting either a small tree or shrubs in the garden. No decision was made on what to plant, and it was decided we would continue the discussion through email.
  - B. We discussed starting work on the site. Sadie, Anna, Bi-sek and Anne will work on it this Summer. Anna will coordinate dates for meeting.
  
- III. Garden Advice Offer to the Public

Sadie suggested we offer a demonstration of some kind to the public. We discussed the need for a notice in the Plainfield Post advertising that we are available to help with gardening advice.
  
- IV. The bill being introduced on Unrestricted Mosquito Spraying in Massachusetts Bill H4640

Ed explained that changes to the bill are being drafted. He pointed out that our legislators need to be educated on this subject. Ed noted that nothing is happening at the State House at the moment due to Covid-19. We discussed the possibility of writing an article for the Plainfield Post.
  
- V. Public Composting Program
  - A. Sadie introduced the possibility of setting up a compost facility in Plainfield. Both Greenfield and Northampton have organized facilities with the help of the pedal people. Anna raised the possibility of organizing a public facility at Raspberry Hill with strict rules. Ed brought up the issue of pesticide residues on waste using the example of banana peels. He pointed out that there were issues in the past with compost from *The Rich Earth Institute* in Vermont. Sadie offered to talk to them to find out whether there are issues currently with the compost.
  - B. Bi-sek suggested we survey our citizenry on whether they would want to have a public composting program, since she has the tools to create a one. We could place the survey in *The Plainfield Post*, conduct it on-line, and/or by phone.
  - C. We also discussed the possibility of conducting a workshop-demonstration on composting next Spring at Anna's farm or Raspberry Hill.
  
- VI. Contacting the new owner of the Waryjasz property in the center of town

We discussed welcoming the new owner of the property to town and inviting him to one of our meetings. Anna will draft a letter of welcome.

Anne will contact him by phone before the next meeting and obtain his address if possible.

VII. Old Business – Farmers’ Market, Cummington

Sadie will advertise the upcoming Farmers’ Market in Cummington in the *Plainfield Post* at the end of June

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Anne Williamson