

Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission

10:30 AM February 28, 2017

Town Hall

In attendance: Sue Wingate, Ron Sundquist and Joan Magrauth

Minutes were accepted as corrected: change to the minutes: from 3/23 to 2/23 to 2/28/2017.

Old Business

1. **Mission/Vision statement:** Joan will be doing a final rewrite of the vision statement and we will vote on it after last tweaking at the next meeting.
2. **Master Plan:** Advised that our mission statement, vision, and information sources need to be need to be finalized as soon as possible as we need to have final input for the draft Master Plan revision in June.
3. **Slye Farm:** Need to check status of the conservation easement and recommend that the barn be included /
4. **Forest Management Day:** Wendy Scribner from NH County Extension will be providing possible dates for the Forest Management seminar. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on the tools available for meeting the management goals for forested land in a responsible manner. Morning session to be held at the Old Town Hall; afternoon on the forest property adjacent to Tuftonboro Central School. Will set participation at 20 people and offer it to Tuftonboro residents first. If more than 20 sign up we could hold a second session; if fewer we could invite people from Wolfeboro through their Ag Com. Promote this: article in the Tuftonboro Times spring newsletter, article in the Granite State News, on town website.
5. **Wolfeboro Farmers Market:** Ron: will be in contact with Fred Martin of the Wolfeboro Farmers Market who is also a bee keeper.
6. **Town Gardens:** Sue led us in a discussion of the town garden: a. possibility of including 2 meadow demonstration plots adjacent to the community garden plots in the unused areas that are usually planted to corn – one for native pollinators and one for butterflies and hummingbirds. Seed mixes would be based on the recommendations of the UNH agricultural research station. The purpose would be to demonstrate to the public the importance of providing habitat for at-risk native pollinators and that such meadows could be developed on similar lands in town. Information from UNH is that this will be a 3-year commitment: Year 1 “smothering” the plot using thick black plastic to reduce unwanted growth from the seedbank, Year 2 planting native seed mix of perennials (wildflowers and grasses) and annuals, and Year 3 promoting growth of planted species and reduction of unwanted species. Some mowing will need to be done in the early years as the plots get established but less as the plants are well established. Information available suggests that this is a 3 year project before you are ready to plant native species. A motion was made, seconded and approved to move forward with the project. Sue will contact Bill to see what size the area is adjacent to the road and the garden plots so that we can make plans. Need to check the cost of plastic against the budget of \$1600 for the year. We will be able to reuse the plastic for lining the paths between the plots later.

New Business

1. **Monthly Meeting:** Motion made, approved and seconded to have monthly meetings the first Monday of the month at 9:00 am at the Town Hall, beginning in April. All are welcome.

2. **Assignments:** Look over Mission/Vision statement Joan sends out prior to next meeting and be ready with final edits and to make final decision in April Consider what we want to include in the Master Plan. Sue will contact prospective member. Consider revision to community garden rules

No additional business meeting adjourned at 12:30

Next TAC meeting: 9AM on April 3