

Tuftonboro Agricultural Commission
Minutes 2/4/20
4PM Selectman's room

Present: Sue Wingate, Bill Marcussen, Geoff Blackett, Mike Haeger, Joan Magrauth

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

New Business: Sue introduced Sue Porier

Susan Porier - Master Gardener, oversees the Wolfeboro Community Garden. We asked her to join us to discuss the benefits of "no till". And, should we embrace this method and how best to convert. There is a movie and I believe the title is Big Farm Little Farm available via Amazon that covers this nature like way of gardening. The premise is that by not tilling more of the nutrients already available in what has been planted are maintained in the soil. Layering helps to build up the soil and this rather taking it all away and then tilling disrupting the breakdown of plants; plus improves water retention.

Sue left shortly as she had another commitment but not before suggesting that AG students may be interested in interning. Couple of other thoughts: Adam - Spiderweb Gardens is operating organically and this works and fits with this ideal.

Discussion of the CG:

1. Set up a meeting with CG members in mid April
2. Need to alert them to our plans
3. those that may and those that don't will tend to their own plots that will now remain with the same people, until they do not want to continue.
4. salt hay or straw as an overall mulch for plots (salt hay from New Brunswick) - John Moulton contact.
5. paths may have wood chips that stay or plastic (to be removed end of season).

The band around 3/4 of the gardens planted with wild flowers or stay with a cover crop?

Geoff has been diligently working on the general garden rules.

February 14/15 the "**Farm and Forest Exposition**" at the Doubletree on Elm St. in Manchester.

Pest Control - Sue will ask Adam if he would hold a seminar for our gardeners.

Food Pantry: Sue Porier goes to Spiderweb once a week for donations. Unused garden plots could be used for the food pantry via volunteers.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2020, Selectman's Office

Adjournment: 5:15PM. Respectively submitted, Joan Magrauth

