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DRAFT

NEWTON FARM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2009

7:00 pm, City Hall Room 209

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with the following attendees:

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Harper, Chair, L. Mottard, R. Lipof, V. Schnell, D. Lang, P. Lewenberg, J. Hepburn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Barrer, President, NCFI, Jerry Regosin, NCFI,

Newton Community Farm Inc. Report, P. Barrer

Report on Farm Operations/update – There were no tomatoes this year which affected CSA members but overall members were very understanding. This also affected sales numbers at the farmstand and market, which will affect the financials. Winter crops have been planted in fields. Introduced Jerry Regosin from the NCFI Board. P. Barrer reported the Lumiere Dinner was a success with Vinodivino as the wine contributor. Electric went into the greenhouse and a flyer for the Fall Festival was handed out with an electronic version to be emailed around. Six photovoltaic solar panels were offered in donation. Could be installed in front of farmhouse facing Nahanton Street. NCFI believes they may be able to offset all electricity for framing operations through such panels. The Commission stated they were in favor of environmental initiatives and demonstrations but would like a picture of how they would look installed. NCFI said they would submit photos and go through NHC. The Education Coordinator for the Farm will be coming to the November meeting. Would like to move forward with the contract.

General Business & Announcements

2008 Audited financials were submitted to the Commission

Lewenberg moved to approve the submitted audited financials. The motion was seconded by Schnell and the motion was approved unanimously (7-0). Staff to send to S. Pooler.

CPA proposal moving forward. Draft application sent to Commission. Lewenberg felt that application didn't give Commission and NCFI enough credit for fundraising, community involvement, leveraging funds, and operationally self-sustaining. Lang reinforced sentiment.

Lang moved to give the working group permission to complete the application. Motion was approved 6-0-1, Schnell abstaining). Lang volunteered to give a letter from NHC and directed staff to get application on NHC Agenda for next month.

Newton Farm Commission

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Lipof moved to approve the August and September minutes. Schnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-3 with Lewenberg, Hepburn, and Lang abstaining).

Schnell mentioned she hoped Commission could be counted on to volunteer at Harvest Festival.

Schnell moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Lang. Approved 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Ananth, Senior Planner