



David B. Cohen
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development
Michael J. Kruse, Director

Telephone
(617)-796-1134
Telex
(617) 796-1086
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089

DRAFT

NEWTON FARM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES August 6, 2009 7:00 pm at Newton Angino Community Farm

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the following attendees:

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Harper, Chair, L. Mottard, R. Lipof, J. Hepburn, V. Schnell,

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Lang, P. Lewenberg

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Gene Rubin, NCF, Peter Barrer, President, NCF, Rick Dinjian, NCF, Greg Maslow, Farmer

Newton Community Farm Inc. Report, P. Barrer

Report on Farm Operations/update – The Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities approved a grant to fund an accessible learning garden and to pave a piece of the driveway leading to the garden. Lucy Caldwell Stair led two historical tours of the farm this summer. There was a visit from a granddaughter and relation of the Angino Family, Barrer and Schnell were in attendance. Yes, the Farm pays for plots at Nahanton Garden like any citizen. NCFI has decided to go with the term “Friend” for its program to expand ways for Newton residents to participate in the Farm. Farmer in Training program for middle school students going well. Sadly the farm has lost a lot of tomatoes to Late blight as have most New England farms. It was mentioned that the Board is getting pricing information about undergrounding wires serving the greenhouse.

Schnell raised the idea of giving Greg (or his family) a Farm Aid “Who’s Your Farmer Hero” T-shirt. They are \$10 and everyone could contribute \$2.

There was a brief discussion of the financial information emailed in advance regarding Farm sales to date.

There was a discussion about the proposal for the new pullet shed measuring 7’ by 10’. Exterior features include cedar shingle to be painted red (to match barn), asphalt tab roof, wood floor, new wood windows similar to previous. Shed could be used as tool storage, possible composting toilet, potting shed, or for hay storage. The Commission discussed that it was happy to give latitude for the most usable/functional building that meets the Farm’s needs as long as it looks like the previous pullet shed taken down for the expansion of the greenhouse. Construction would begin in the spring of 2010 with moneys already in the budget. *Lipof, seconded by Schnell, moved to approve the 7 ft. by 10 ft. footprint as presented. Motion approved 5-0.*

Newton Farm Commission

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us

General Business & Announcements

The Commission moved to the Barn where Harper gave an update on the CPA proposal for work to the interior of the Barn (with plans) and a 1-page summary was reviewed. It was discussed that the subcommittee would move forward with the approval of the Commission. *Lipof moved to approve the "1 pager" as presented and the subcommittee should move forward with the CPA application for the October deadline. The motion was approved 5-0.*

Mottard gave an update of his conversation with Parks and Rec regarding farming at the Kennard Estate. It was discussed that other places would be considered as well.

Staff noted that there were two resignations over the summer, Shoull and Bruyn. *Schnell made a motion to thank the two ladies with a letter. The motion was seconded by Hepburn and was approved 5-0.*

Hepburn moved to approve the June minutes, seconded by Mottard and approved 5-0.

Dates to keep in mind: September 29 is the Benefit Dinner at Lumiere and October 18 is the Fall Harvest Festival.

Harper moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 and was seconded by Schnell. Motion Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Ananth, Sr. Planner