



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

September 3, 2009
7:00 pm, City Hall Room 209

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with the following attendees: (not a quorum)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Lang, P. Lewenberg, J. Hepburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Barrer, President, NCFI, Rick Dinjian, NCFI,

Newton Community Farm Inc. Report, P. Barrer

Report on Farm Operations/update – Tough year for the fields, lost all tomatoes except for the cherry-sized, as well as the peppers and eggplants. Planted greens in their place. Won't make 10% Food Pantry donation target because of crop failure, donations will be closer to 5%. Adjusting what they are sending the pantry as they are getting some returns. Used to give them 7 shares, now trying to customize the delivery more for them. V. Schnell will talk with them about what produce they are able to move. NCFI will be taking a systematic look at potential sites in Newton that could be farmed. They will also be taking another look at their food distribution philosophy. Brief discussion of California St. Farmers Market not well attended, wait for other farmers to get into Cold Springs Farmers Market, Food Pantry returning food...could sell additional CSA shares. Schnell noted that this is good to know and that the Commission should think about this as well. NCFI is thinking about ways to expand the idea of "Friends of the Farm." NCFI is thinking about details of Pullet Shed and will come back to Commission with further details. Barrer initiated meeting with David Oliver, Cindy Stone, Susan Abele and others at Newton History Museum. The Museum is planning a series on Farming next year at the Library that NCFI will likely be a part of, could use some help from the Commission on this. Looking forward to finishing up CPA Application with Commission.

General Business & Announcements

CPA proposal moving forward. 1-page summary was submitted to CPA staff.

Mottard noted he has talked with Fran Towle at Parks and Rec. and although they do not likely have land to lend/give out they are receptive to hearing more when the idea is further flushed out.

Staff to look into parcel at end of Warren St.

Newton Farm Commission

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us

Schnell gave T-shirt to Harper to be presented to Maslow at Lumiere Dinner.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Ananth, Sr. Planner

Angino Farm\AgMin\9-3-09