



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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NEWTON FARM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2009

7:00 pm, City Hall Room 209

Meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with the following attendees:

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Harper, Chair, V. Schnell, P. Lewenberg, L. Mottard, J. Hepburn,

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Lang, R. Lipof

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Barrer, President, NCFI, Gene Rubin, NCFI, Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor,

Update on Contract with City: Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor

O. Young, Assistant City Solicitor, joined the Commission. At the last meeting O. Young had prepared an amendment to the existing agreement for operation and maintenance of the farm to extend the contact with the Operator for 20 years with 5-yr. review periods. At the end of each 5-yr period the Commission has the right to terminate or renegotiate to contract with the operator using the same standards as exists in the contract now. O. Young stated that this is an unusual contract in its length and opt out options. O. Young then submitted slight revision of the contract based on feedback from the operator and Commission. Farm manager had proposed tempering of language and removed the words "sole discretion" in favor of "reasonable". Law Dept had no problem with reasonable but still wants concept of discretion to remain and has agreed to soften sole discretion with discretion. Operator felt sole discretion had an arbitrary tone to it. Commission thought proposed language was standard as far as contracts go though tempered. Mottard and Lewenberg stated that they didn't feel the word discretion adds much if the operator wanted the word to remain out. Harper also on board doesn't think removing word takes away from City's rights in any meaningful way.

Lewenberg made a motion to move to question. Seconded by Mottard. Motion carries 4-0-1 (Hepburn abstaining). Lewenberg made a motion to leave word out and proceed with language as proposed by Operator. Seconded by Mottard, wording as proposed will help with fundraising for long term capital improvements. Motion carries 4-0-1 (Hepburn abstaining). Approved.

Report on Farm Operations, P. Barrer, NCFI

All produce sales are done. On budget for year. Expenses less than anticipated. Fundraising down but still expects to be in the black. Board now working on proposed business plan for next year. Hope to get it to you in January. Thinking about not operating Farmers Market in Cold Spring but staying in market on California Street. Hope it will boost sales at farmstand, will increase number of shares Farm is able to sell, and will get more people to the farm. Would also allow Farm to save on market and staffing fees.

Newton Farm Commission

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www.ci.newton.ma.us

Pullet Shed. P. Barrer presented current proposal for pullet shed. Similar size, similar orientation to previous shed but moved slightly towards street. Will have to move kiosk to learning garden. Will have door on side. Two purposes: keep greenhouse supplies, tools and equipment, and contain information and pamphlets about farm. Windows will open up like shutters to display information. J. Harper read D. Lang's support for shed since he couldn't be a meeting. Commission asked if Greg could use extra space porch takes up in favor of more storage? Shingles are red cedar painted same color as barn. Trim and roof same as barn. Will be back after more consultation with Greg.

CPC Application. Presented application in November. Presentation went well although there was not a sense of satisfaction due to misunderstanding and question raised about matching funds. Working on response to questions raised for Jan 20th Working Session. Lewenberg will not be able to attend that meeting.

V. Schnell would like letter to go to Mayor expressing appreciation of his support over years. Gift of Honey? Schnell to draft letter.

Motion to approve minutes for October and November. Seconded. 5-0.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. 5-0. 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Ananth, Senior Planner