

DRAFT

**NEWTON FARM COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2010
7:00 pm, City Hall Room 209**

Meeting opened at 7:09 p.m. with the following attendees:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: P. Lewenberg, D. Lang

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Peter Barrer, Gene Rubin, Ted Chapman, Rick Dinjian, of NCF, and Greg Maslowe, Farm Manager

Newton Community Farm Report – P. Barrer

Report on Farm Operation

P. Barrer says the farm operation is relatively dormant because of the weather, and they are preparing for next year. G. Maslowe said that lettuce, spinach and arugula are growing in the greenhouse.

Draft Business Plan – P. Barrer

All members received a copy of the farm report for 2009 and the Business Plan for 2010 by email. A number of members of the Community Farm, Inc. are present to answer any questions about the written report and the budget. J. Harper asked P. Barrer to describe the highlights of the year. P. Barrer mentioned the seedling sale, the spring festival, expansion of the greenhouse and finishing the barn repair. There are some small changes in the CSA plan for 2010. There will be no booth at the Cold Springs Park farmer's market, but the one on California Street will remain. The CSA will start February 1 and run to the 7th for re-enrollment, followed by open enrollment. Open enrollment will be on a lottery system. The NCF is still fine-tuning the budget and will submit a revised plan next meeting. Farm Commission members are asked to review the plan and submit any questions prior to the next meeting.

Pullet Shed Plan

At the last meeting, P. Barrer presented a plan (T. Chapman's proposal). G. Maslowe, after reviewing the proposal(s) prefers a smaller size structure, because there is no pressing need for a larger structure and it would be difficult to meet ADA requirements for access with a larger structure. The present proposal is to make it an information kiosk. The other kiosk (used as an arbor) is still at the entrance, but will be moved to an area near the learning garden. **Motion by R. Lipoff to accept this plan. Second by L. Mottard. Vote: Harper, Schnell, Mottard, Lipof voted "aye." Hepburn abstained. Motion passed.** J. Hepburn and V. Schnell indicated they would miss the pullet shed. G. Maslowe said the farm will not have chickens. T. Chapman said the pullet shed was

built in the early 1900s and was the only structure on the farm for which a building permit had been obtained – by the then owner named ‘Chapman.’

General Business & Announcements

CP Application/Working Session – 7PM 1/20 City Hall Cafeteria (Basement)

P. Barrer reminded everyone of the working session. He was asked if the Farm Commission or others should prepare anything. P. Barrer said “no,” but he and others will be there to answer questions, if any. It was agreed that no new letter of support from the Building Department should be sought.

Contract Extension

The extended contract was signed by Mayor Cohen prior to his leaving office. G. Maslowe thanked the Farm Commission members for pushing for the long-term contract.

Election of Officers

R. Lipoff has offered to be the next chairman. **Move by V. Schnell to nominate R. Lipoff for Chair. No other nominations. Motion by L. Mottard to approve R. Lipoff as new chairman. Second by J. Hepburn. Vote: All in favor.**

Nomination by L. Mottard for J. Harper to serve as vice-chairman. J. Harper was nominated as vice-chair. **Motion by L. Mottard to confirm J. Harper as vice-chair. Second by J. Harper. Vote: All in favor.**

December minutes for approval

Motion by L. Mottard to approve December minutes as written. Second by J. Harper. Vote: All in favor.

T. Chapman reported he and G. Maslowe are working on putting ventilation in the bathroom and doing some other repairs to the home.

Motion by L. Mottard to adjourn. Second by V. Schnell. Vote: All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Phelps, Sr. Environmental Planner