



City of Keene
New Hampshire

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

3:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Commission Members

Sarah Wilton, Chair
Catherine (Kit) Souther, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina A. Chadbourne
Mark Florenz
Aaron Moody
Charles Daloz

Staff Present

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Michele Chalice, Planner

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Approve July 12, 2018 minutes
- 3) "NH HB1233 Seed/Fertilizer Deregulation"
- 4) Agriculture Commission Facebook Page Discussion
- 5) Agriculture Commission Brochure - Draft Review
- 6) Volunteer Urban Garden Discussion
- 7) New Agenda Items
- 8) Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 12, at 3:30PM
- 9) Adjournment

**City of Keene
New Hampshire**

**AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

3:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Commission Members:

Sarah Wilton, Chair
Catherine Souther, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina A. Chadbourne
Charles Daloz, Member

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Michele Chalice, Planner

Members not present:

Aaron Moody, Member
Mark Florenz, Member

1. Call to order

Chair Wilton called the meeting to order at 3:58 pm.

2. Approve April 11, 2018 minutes

Chair Wilton asked members for any amendments to the April 11 minutes. Chair Wilton proposed the following amendment:

Amendments to April 11 minutes:

Page 3, next to last line, change “Chair Shedd” to “Chair Wilton.”

Ms. Chadbourne moved to accept amended minutes, Mr. Daloz seconded and motion passed unanimously.

3. Agriculture Commission Brochure - Draft Review

Vice Chair Souther asked if written or verbal permission is needed for photographs in the brochure. Ms. Chalice replied that as long as she gives photo credit that should be enough but she will check into that to be sure. Ms. Souther said she has spoken with most organizations about photo credits but not all of them, for example, the Keene Community Gardens. Mr. Daloz said that Mr. Andy Bohannon may be the contact person for Keene Community Gardens.

Chair Wilton stated that the last panel called “For Farmers” of the brochure is empty. Ms. Souther said the empty panel could be used as resources page. Chair Wilton said it has been

three months since they last met and she is confused. She said she spoke to Bruce Bickford at the Farmer's Market and suggested to him that it would be helpful if the farming community could put out a message called "East Seasonally." Chair Wilton said that her thinking behind this message is that people do not crave seasonal food when it is in season if it is also being sold year round, for example, the Monadnock Co-Op sells corn in May. She said Mr. Bickford thinks the "East Seasonally" message is a good idea. Chair Wilton researched various local farms online and compiled a list of what each farm grows monthly but she did not bring the list with her. She stated that the message "East Seasonally" should be placed on the back of the brochure along with a calendar of the food produced monthly at each farms in the area. She suggested that the brochure list foods available from the months of November to May. Chair Wilton said she has a copy that Mr. Bickford looked over and she will bring it to next month's meeting.

Councilor Chadbourne moved to approve the suggestions of the wording "Eat Seasonally" of Chair Wilton for the back panel, Ms. Souther seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Daloz suggested they list foods for twelve months instead of only nine. Ms. Souther added that they could still place resources on the back page. Mr. Daloz said the resources are listed on their website so people could visit their link for more information. Ms. Souther stated that there are twelve months of products on some farms. Chair Wilton replied that they are not always going to have fresh foods. Ms. Souther clarified that some farms do have products year round especially ones with greenhouses.

Chair Wilton suggested that the language of the brochure be tweaked and perhaps the use of soundbites could be helpful. Ms. Chalice agreed that grammatical consistency is important. Ms. Chadbourne asked for an example. Chair Wilton suggested the verbiage "Local Agriculture Education" as a sound bite. She said the second bullet should say "Farmers and Farm Business Advocacy." Chair Wilton stated the third one might be redundant, but the fourth one could be "Farm Problem Conflict Resolution." She said the fifth one could be "Farm-Related Board Collaboration." Chair Wilton suggested the use of nouns over adjectives and verbs over nouns. She provided the example of "City, Board and Commission Liaison" and "Agriculture Resource Inventories." Ms. Souther said the verbs might be helpful for lay people and otherwise they might become confused with the language. Councilor Chadbourne agreed. Chair Wilton replied that if people have questions about the wording of the brochure they can visit the web page. Chair Wilton suggested the wording "Farm Building Resource Protection." Councilor Chadbourne stated again that laypeople might not understand the phrasing. Ms. Chalice agreed that people might become overwhelmed with the wording and just close the brochure

Mr. Daloz agreed that there are consistency issues with the wording and that they should continue to work on the verbiage. Chair Wilton suggested that for the Projects section, they use the wording "Agriculture-Friendly Legislature Promotion" and "Greenspace and Pollinator Habitat Promotion" as well as "Community Garden Maps", "Chicken Brochure" and "Small-Scale Farming Regulation Adaptation." Ms. Souther asked which one that the last suggestion was modifying. Chair Wilton replied it was the one they did for Mr. Florenz and suggested the wording "Farm Friendly Legislation Advocacy." Ms. Chalice said they need to stick with the use of City verbiage and not state wording, for example, using words like

“regulation” and “ordinances.” Chair Wilton suggested using the term “Chicken Brochure.” Ms. Souther replied that the verbiage “Chicken Brochure” is not specific enough as the brochure only addresses egg care and does not address meat raising chickens, only egg laying ones. Ms. Chalice suggested the verbiage “Backyard Chicken Brochure.”

Councilor Chadbourne stated that it is important to remember that there are four people in the committee and all suggestions and opinions must be considered. Ms. Souther stated that she got inspiration for content of the brochure from the Cooperative Extension. Ms. Chalice suggested that they might need a vote on the verbiage. She said they already have a motion that allows Ms. Souther to use her discretion on the verbiage (previous motion in fact gives Chair Wilton discretion on the “Eat Seasonally” verbiage for back of brochure).

Ms. Chalice proposed that Chair Wilton and Ms. Souther come up with verbiage and the commission can take a vote on it next month. All members agreed. Ms. Souther said she understands the value of making brochure language more buzzword-oriented but wants to ensure it will grasp the attention of lay people. Ms. Chadbourne agreed and stated that they may end up come up with a third version that is a cross between the two. Ms. Chalice said she will send the brochure in powerpoint format to Chair Wilton so she has access to the two versions.

4. Agriculture Commission Facebook Page Discussion

Chair Wilton shared the idea of establishing an agricultural Facebook page to share articles, ideas and more. If members agree, Ms. Chalice stated that as of right now the City and individual departments have Facebook pages, but she will ask if individual members are allowed to manage their own Facebook pages. Ms. Souther agreed that a Facebook page would ease communication with the public.

“Ms. Chadbourne moved to direct Ms. Chalice to investigate the possibility of having an agricultural-based Facebook page, Mr. Daloz seconded and motion passed unanimously.”

5. "NH HB1233 Seed/Fertilizer Deregulation"

Chair Wilton stated that next month’s meeting will begin with Agenda Item 5.

6. Volunteer Urban Garden Discussion

7. New Agenda Items

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 8, at 3:30PM

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker

HB1233

WHAT? Preemption of local regulation of seeds and fertilizer.

Pro

- **Consistency of statewide regulation – many farms fall under more than one jurisdiction**

Note: When Senator Feltes asked for examples of conflicting regulations, none were offered. Former DAMF Commissioner Lorraine Merrill heard of local ordinances that restricted the use of seeds and fertilizers for agriculture use. HB 1233 is a preventive measure.

- **Consistency with Federal Seed Act Title 7 (interstate transfer of seeds)**
- **USDA: Never been a farm decertified due to Genetic Engineering**
- **Local municipalities still have power to regulate certain activities**
- **Fertilizer erroneously implicated in pollution**
- **Prevents communities from discriminating against certain types of farming**

Those who support the bill: Commissioner Shawn Jasper (DAMF), Robert Johnson (NH Farm Bureau), Gene Harrington (Biotechnology Innovation Organization), Representative Matthew Scruton (Strafford-District 12), Representative Richard Gordon (Rockingham-District 35), Rob Morrill (Morrill Dairy Farm, LLC), Ryan Pettiti (TruGreen), Bob Mann (National Association of Landscape Professionals), Representative John T. O'Connor (Rockingham – District 6), Representative Howard Pearl (Merrimack-District 26), Denis Ward (NH Farm Bureau), Erick Sawtelle

Con

- **Interests of local farms vary in the state; local control of farms is important**
- **Inability of local communities to regulate fertilizers near waterbodies – i.e., town of Fitzwilliam has 75-100 ft. buffer on all-prime wetlands, a more rigorous buffer than state**
- **HB 1233 language is funded by outside organizations who want to utilize GMO seeds**
- **HB399 (State regulation of pesticides where children play) rejected in favor of local control**
- **GMO's contain chemicals that impact environment – localities ought to be able to regulate**
- **State over reach**
- **Petition of farmers opposed to 1233**

Those opposed: LarisaTrexler,SarahLaeng(NOFA-NH),NikkiKolb(NOFA-NH),KathyCahill,GaryUlin,RenaWoods,JohnTuthill,JeanneSable,James L.Rodger, ConnieGilman,GaleTaylor,MonicoChristofili, Representative James McConnell (Cheshire-District12),Jamie Duggan (DogRoseFarm), DianeSt.Germain, MaryWilke, Louise Spencer, Sally Hatch, Maura Willing, Liz-Anne Platt, Michelle Sanborn (NH Community Rights Network), Dennis Jakobowski, Representative Marjori Shepardson (Cheshire-District 10), Susan Covert, Deb Cinamon, Representative Lee Oxenham (Sullivan-District 1), Catherine Corkery (NH Sierra Club), Kevin Wooley, Bonnie Wright, Representative Peter Bixby (Strafford-District17), Representative Paula Francese (Rockingham-District 18), Joe Magruder.

Those neutral: Nature Conservancy – language included in bill to protect certain areas; has no equities in farms/fertilizers; NH Department of Environmental Services: Terf fertilizer known source of nitrogen pollution, provided letter of opposition from Rivers management; HB 393 already preempted local authority; felt local regulation was preferred

STATUS – May 3 ‘Ought to Pass’

https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/bill_docket.aspx?lsr=2167&sy=2018&txtsessionyear=2018&txtbillnumber=hb1233&sortoption=&q=1

OPTIONS

Incentivization: noun. The action or process of making something (especially a product, scheme, etc.) attractive by offering an incentive for purchase or participation; the provision of (usually financial) incentives.

- Financial
- Plaques – Bee Friendly??
- Etc.
- Etc.

https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/HearingReport.aspx?id=16667&sy=2018

Ref: Phone call 5/6/2018 – Griffin Roberge phone: 271-2878

Links as provided

http://www.sentinelsource.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/don-t-let-corporations-control-our-farms-by-sarah-wilton/article_01155f3a-f70c-5048-90ca-80b815521508.html

Don't let corporations control our farms, by Sarah Wilton

Jun 24, 2018

The Live Free or Die state has avoided the corporatocracy's (the establishment) attempt to destroy/monetize what's left of the natural world, until now.

Valuing its natural beauty above all, and a place where young and old can find refuge from consumerism, our state is consistently represented nationally in the short list of best states. In U.S. News and World Report's "Quality of Life" standards' sub-category Natural Environment it excels and ranks as follows: in low industrial toxins (6th best of 50 states); low pollution health risks (8/50); and urban air quality (17/50).

New Hampshire's ranking in drinking water quality (42nd of 50) contrasts. Liberty Utilities' Granite Bridge project, establishing a gas pipeline between Stratham and Manchester, and House Bill 1233, an agriculture bill preempting local regulation of (GMO) seeds and fertilizers (exported sludge), challenge these environmental values.

Bipartisan support among officials for both of these issues illustrates the fossil-fuel and agro-business influence over New Hampshire's political process and state weaknesses in regulating corporations. Further, it reveals corporate and political elites' inability to solve the apocalyptic socioeconomic and ecological crises that demand immediate action. "Competitiveness" and "providing jobs" are essentially fig leaves hiding corporate benefits and the corresponding social and environmental costs.

Price parity for farmers — farmers receive what it costs for them to grow food — is a function of multiple influences. Deregulating farming methods may reduce costs, but it also reduces competitiveness by diminishing New Hampshire's brand as a locally produced safe-food haven.

Farm price parity as well as a healthier community could more easily be achieved by increasing minimum wages — more consumers could afford to pay for what it costs farmers to produce healthy food. Out-of-state-controlled jobs in the fossil fuel sector have a limited shelf life and would hold workers hostage to low wages and benefits by threatening relocation.

An alternative to the corporate business model — worker co-operatives — would result in worker, rather than corporate, decision making and horizontal distribution of profits. There are limitless manufacturing options to emphasize local production and consumption — my favorites being canoes to shoes (ice skates, hiking, sandals, etc.).

As we prepare to celebrate independence from 18th-century British power, New Hampshire is threatened with a more-sinister colonizing influence — that of out-of-state corporations controlling our food system and poisoning our environment.

SARAH WILTON

127 School St.

Keene

What We Do

- Agriculture education
- Agriculture and farmers' advocacy and problem solving
- City boards/commission networking
- Agriculture resources, historic farms, and farm buildings inventories
- Farmland and related natural resources protection



Stonewall Farm

Keene Agricultural Commission

An advisory committee created to ensure proper recognition, promotion, enhancement, encouragement, use, management, and protection of agriculture and agricultural resources in the interest of the economic prosperity, cultural and aesthetic enrichment, natural resource protection, and general welfare of the community.

City of Keene Agriculture Commission

3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431
Phone: 603 352 0133

<http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/agricultural-commission>



Green Wagon Farm



Photo courtesy of The Keene Farmers' Market

Agriculture In Keene

Projects

Promote Local Farms Eat Seasonally



- 300 year Cheshire County farming culture
- 8.8% food sourced locally
- Year-round farmers' market
- Community gardens
- Pollinator habitats
- Local 4-H and FFA organizations
- Diverse local products including dairy, crops, wool, meat, eggs, hay, honey, maple products, and lumber

- **Chicken raising for household egg production brochure**
- **Community gardens inventory and mapping**
- **Agriculture resource integration into public school curricula**
- **Green space and pollinator habitat preservation**
- **Local farmers and the farmers' market problem solving**



Keene community gardens

May-June: Herbs, Bok Choi, Greens, Kale, Lettuce, Leeks, Peas, Scallions, Turnips

June-July: Herbs, Bok Choi, Broccoli, Cabbage, Collard Greens, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peas, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Scallions, (Salad) Turnips, Strawberries

July-August: Herbs, Beets, Blackberries, Black Currants, Blueberries, Carrots, Collard Greens, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Gooseberries, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers (Bell, Jalapeno, etc.), Raspberries, Red Currants, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Yellow Squash, Zucchini

August-September: Apples, Apricots, Herbs, Beans, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Collard, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Lettuce, Peaches, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Summer Squash (Yellow, Zucchini),

September-October: Apples/Cider, Herbs, Beans, Carrots, Collard Greens, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Pumpkin, Tomatoes, Winter Squash (Acorn, Butternut, Carnival, Hubbard, Pumpkin)

October-November: Apples, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collard Greens, Dakon Radish, Kale, Leeks, Onions, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash

November-May: Syrup, Pickles, Jams

What We Do

- Public education and awareness about local agriculture
- Advocating for farmers and farm businesses
- Provide visibility for farming
- Help resolve farm related problems or conflicts
- Advise and work with other boards and commissions on issues facing local farms
- Conduct inventories of agriculture resources, historic farms, and farm buildings
- Advocate for protection of farmland and other natural resources



Corn field at Green Wagon Farm



Gardens at Stonewall Farm

DRAFT

City of Keene Agriculture Commission

3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Phone: 603 352 0133

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Photo courtesy of The Farmers' Market Of Keene

Agriculture In Keene

Projects

Promote Local Farms - Eat Seasonally



*Wildflowers and seasonal farmstand at
Dusty Dog Farm*

- **Keene has a rich agricultural history and is a farm/homestead friendly community**
- **Well established farmers' market**
- **Community gardens**
- **Pollinator habitats**
- **Local 4-H and FFA organizations**
- **Diverse local products both past and present including dairy, crops, wool, meat, eggs, hay, honey, maple products, and lumber**

- Educational Brochure on raising chickens for household egg production
- Mapping community gardens
- Assisting community gardens and home gardeners
- Promoting green space and pollinator habitats
- Problem solving efforts for local farmers and the farmers' market



Keene community gardens

June-July: Basil, Bok Choi, Broccoli, Cabbage, Collard Greens, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peas, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Scallions, (Salad) Turnips, Strawberries

July-August: Basil, Beets, Blackberries, Black Currants, Blueberries, Carrots, Collard Greens, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Gooseberries, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers (Bell, Jalapeno, etc.), Raspberries, Red Currants, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Yellow Squash, Zucchini

August-September: Apples, Apricots, Basil, Beans, Cantaloupe, Carrots, Collard Greens, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Kale, Lettuce, Peaches, Peppers, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Summer Squash (Yellow, Zucchini)

September-October: Acorn Squash, Apples/Cider, Basil, Beans, Butternut Squash, Carrots, Collard Greens, Hubbard Squash, Kale, Lettuce, Peppers, Pumpkin, Tomatoes, Winter Squash (Acorn, Butternut, Carnival, Hubbard, Pumpkin)

October-November: Apples, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collard Greens, Dakon Radish, Kale, Leeks, Onions, Potatoes, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Turnips, Winter Squash

November-May: Winter Squashes, Root Vegetables, Canned/Picked Produce