

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Agriculture and Open Space Committee

Minutes of June 23, 2015

Attendance: Co-chairperson Pete Hubbell, Co-chairman Norman Greig, Marina Michahelles, John Hardeman, Ken Migliorelli (7:40), Talea Hekman-Taylor and Linda Keeling, secretary.

Absent: Mike Robertson, Rich Biezynski and Town Board Councilman William O'Neill (liaison)

Guests: Hannah Beal

Meeting Opened: *Co-chairman Pete Hubbell* opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

AGENDA

- 1. Approve Minutes: March 24 and June 3 (Pete / Norm)**
- 2. Introduce new member Talea (Pete / Norm)**
- 3. Introduce potential new member Hanna Beal (Pete /Norm)**
- 4. VOTE: Wording Ag Fencing / Spite Fencing (Bill O'Neill)**
- 5. PDR /CPF Applications? Farmer Contact N Greig, Rossi, Sheehan (Pete/Norm /Robert McKeon)**
- 6. Farm List Updates (Linda K)**
- 7. Workshop: PDR /CPF for farmer info, dates? time?**
- 8. Farm Tour Planning: date? establish small committee (Robert McKeon/Chris Klose/Pete/Norm)**
- 9. Other Business?**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Minutes:** There was a quorum.

MOTION: March 24th Minutes: *John Hardeman* motioned to accept the March 24th minutes, *Marina Michahelles* seconded and all agreed.

MOTION: June 3rd Minutes: *Marina Michahelles* motioned to accept the June 3rd minutes, *John Hardeman* seconded, all agreed.

- 2. Introduce New Member:** *Talea Taylor* was introduced to the group.

- 3. Introduce Potential New Member:** *Hanna Beal* needs to send a letter of interest to the Town Board as she is still interested. She gave the group her varied agricultural background at the University of

Vermont, then went to Martha's Vineyard under a teaching program with children regarding vegetable gardens. She was the manager of Hermance farm in Red Hook. She leases her land from Ethel Barone on Hapeman Hill Rd. She and her boyfriend have transitioned to full time growers on that property. She lives at Rokeby. The group teased her as she has farmed on various soil conditions: rock, clay and loam.

MOTION: *Norman Greig* motioned to accept *Hanna Beal* into the group, *Pete Hubbell* seconded, all agreed.

4. Ag Fencing Wording Vote: The new wording was received by all from an email and read to the group. There was some discussion regarding trellises but it was felt that trellises are their own entity. As it has been over 3 years, it was felt this new wording addresses the agricultural fence definition and the right to farm law.

MOTION: *Ken Migliorelli* moved to accept the ZRC wording as received, *Pete Hubbell* seconded, all agreed.

5. PDR /CPF Applications: A reminder was mentioned to apply for the PDR/CPF funding if still interested. *Linda Keeling* passed around an article that appeared in the Poughkeepsie Journal on May 30, 2015, entitled "Funding available for farmland protection" by John Ferro. It focused on the pleadings from the Dutchess Land Conservancy www.dutchessland.org . A pre-application form must be filled out to initiate the process.

Co-chairman Pete Hubbell asked *Norman Greig* if he wants to add his property on Hapeman Hill with Rossi and Sheehan as a block. Norman agreed to it. Robert McKeon said at the last meeting he would talk with Rossi and Sheehan.

6. Workshop for Farmers: No plans were made to address having an informal workshop for interested farmers.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Farm List Updates: *Linda Keeling* passed around a former list and asked for corrections. She noted that the list was well received by the public at the Bicentennial Celebration in 2012 but since that time several old farms have left or new ones emerged. She encouraged the group to support a new revised listing. Norman Greig noted that if you have 10 acres and you lease it out you are still considered a farm. All were in agreement with the task and coordinating with Robert McKeon's colorized map to show location, address and produce.

2. Farm Tours: *Linda Keeling* noted that several years ago there were farm and barn tours of the northern dutchess which was appreciated by both the tourists who could learn about farm life and the farmers could sell their products. This could be accomplished with the help of the local historical society, Red Hook History. The group is willing to attempt this at a future date with the assistance of Dutchess Tourism. Linda encouraged the development of a small committee to work on it over the year so as to report back to the group on their progress. She also suggested working with Bard College to get access to some of their short buses.

Marina Michahelles suggested working with the Trails Committee to coordinate a bike tour to various farms. *Talia Tyler* reminisced about an Appleblossom tour whereby you had to write up a description before the advent of computers.

Co-chairman Pete Hubbell felt we could work on it as a winter project.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

MOTION: Norman Greig motioned to adjourn and Pete Hubbell seconded, all agreed.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, July 28, 2015.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, AOSC Secretary