

**Town of Sandwich Agriculture Commission  
Minutes – Special Meeting, April 26, 2023**

**Present:** Cara Sutherland, Rich Masta, Dick Devens, and guest, Helen Steele

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Cara, Chairperson.

**Minutes:** April 12, 2023 draft minutes from the regular meeting were not available for review & approval.

**Treasurer Report:** \$500 remains in the account with no expenditures.

**Business Meeting:**

**Old Business:**

Cara reported that the NH Humanities to Go program had approved the Sandwich Agricultural Commission's application to host Thomas Hubka's illustrated lecture *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*. The program will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 in the Doris Benz Center. The NH Humanities Council provides a stipend in the amount of \$300 to be paid to Mr. Hubka. We are responsible for mileage from Pembroke, NH where Mr. Hubka will be speaking on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program is described as follows:

*Through architecture unique to northern New England, this illustrated talk focuses on several case studies that show how farmers converted their typical separate house and barns into connected farmsteads. Thomas Hubka's research demonstrates that average farmers were, in fact, motivated by competition with farmers in other regions of America, who had better soils and growing seasons and fewer rocks to clear. The connected farmstead organization, housing equal parts mixed-farming and home-industry, was one of the collective responses to the competitive threat.*

Cara distributed the guidelines she received from the NH Humanities Council and those present discussed how to publicize the event. Rich will work on a draft flyer that can be posted in public places and Cara will work on a press release that can be also modified for posting on the Sandwich Board and Tamworth Exchange. The program should be of great interest to the community as there are a number of examples of this style of architecture within the Town of Sandwich, especially in the Village. Cara will reach out to the Sandwich Historical Society and Samuel H. Wentworth Library as this may be of interest to their members and patrons.

Cara also reported that she has placed a hold on four Saturdays in June, July, August & September at the Benz Center in the event that the Agriculture Commission wishes to move forward with a series of hands-on workshops focused on food preservation. The dates and topics can be confirmed in the coming weeks. She anticipates that these would be held in the afternoon in order to allow people to attend morning events such as the farmers' market. The number of participants and potential fee to offset the cost of materials/supplies will need to be finalized.

Cara reported that the School to Farm Day is currently finalizing the roster of presenters and she hopes to be able to share that next week. As a reminder, this is a one-day event on May 31, 2023 for 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students in Carroll County and is hosted by NH Agriculture in the Classroom and the NH Farm Bureau. The activity will be held at Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm in Tamworth.

**New Business:**

Cara reminded people that the Carroll Co. Farm Scale Clinic will be held on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the County buildings located at 30 County Farm Road in Ossipee. The annual registration/licensing is required by the NH Division of Weights and Measures for all businesses that grow and sell their own agricultural products. The clinics are free to growers who have three or fewer scales under 100 lb capacity and no other commercial devices on their license.

Rich discussed his conversation with Richard Hodges of ReTreeUs and hopes to have a date for an apple grafting workshop confirmed by next week. He will check dates at the Benz Center to see what is available. He also distributed information on an Arbor Day tree potting workshop to be held on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in North Sandwich.

**Adjourn:**

Cara moved to adjourn, Rich seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next special meeting will be held on May 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cara Sutherland, Chairperson