

Thompson Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 31, 2023

The Seney Room - Town Hall

In Attendance:

Vern Butler, , Art Siegmund, Valerie Clark, Randy Blackmer, Earl Norman, Ryan Cournoyer and Planner Tyra-Penn Gesek

1) Call Meeting to Order 7:00 pm

2) A. Reading of Minutes

Minutes from the March 29, 2023 were distributed to AG commissioners and a motion made by Valerie Clark to approve and seconded by Art Siegmund. Motion approved with Randy abstaining as he was not at the meeting.

3) Correspondence

No correspondence

4) Business Items

Vern started speaking on Agricultural Awareness, Grant and Freedom of information and how it was used. He did not like the information he received back. He stated that if someone could potentially say that this person is running a business but they have not filed as a business. Tyra then spoke and stated that anything that flows through the town body of any kind elected or volunteer can be used by FOIA. Vern asked a few people would they be willing to do this and the answer was no. So we are back to contacting the established businesses and we can put together without the survey. Valerie asked if it would be okay if we advertised we were putting this together. Vern did not see anything wrong in doing that. Tyra then spoke about funds and that the AG commission has no funds of their own and that practice in the past was to go to the Economic Development Committee in principal they will support anything that comes out of this. Vern thinks if we are going to pursue this it sounds like we are going to repeat what was done years ago with a few additions to the list and as far as how the information is distributed we should look at adding electronic brochure along with paper. Tyra agreed that both electronic and paper is the way to go. Valerie questioned without knowing the funding amount what is the minimum we can do. Vern stated the minimum we could do is the electronic. Valerie then asked if we had access to this electronic version could we update the information we solicited on the town web site. Tyra then pointed out we would be going back to where we started with FOIA. What Valerie was trying to get to is what level we could use to get this out without funding and improve when we get some sort of funding. The commission as a whole started looking at the old brochures to see who can be crossed out and who needs to be contacted like Jade Hill Farm and Wilsonville Herb Farm run by Gary and Marsha Kettle. All farms on the current brochure need to be updated except Siegmund Family Farm. Tyra suggested we contact Wilsonville Herb Farm as well as they sell other products from local businesses and they may want to be added to

the list. Vern suggested we look into other businesses that offer AG services. Valerie suggested Sunset Nurseries 860-923-3711. Randy also suggested veterinarian services, Animal Care Experts. Tyra let the commission know that whatever direction we wanted to go that if we need a help in writing a grant she would assist and as some point we will need to approach EDC. The list that was worked on we are going to split up and have each member contact the assigned businesses to see if they still want to be on the brochure. Tyra then suggested to add The Tree House at Underhill Hollow to contact. Valerie want to welcome Ryan to the meeting. Ryan also mentioned he has worked on grants before and he also spoke about the bio digester program.

5) Announcements: N/A

6) Citizens Comments: N/A

7) Agenda: Community Day and Ag Awareness

8) Adjourn at 8:12 PM