

Thompson Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 13, 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 May 31, 2023 were distributed to AG commissioners and a motion made by Valerie Clark to approve and seconded by Ryan Cournoyer. Motion approved

3) Correspondence

No correspondence

4) Business Items

Old Business

Agricultural Awareness Tyra informed the commission that the EDC will have no match funding this fiscal year and if there is it will be minimal. Art suggested the commission divided the list of businesses in the Thompson Guide to Agriculture to be contacted to see if they still want to be included amongst the commissioners. Tyra advised that the grant comes out about 3 times year. Randy to contact Blackmer Farm, Chase Road Growers, Olde Azud Farm, Sunset Nursery and Bitgood Performance Horses. Vern to contact Orchard Products, Morning Beckons Farm, Under Hill, ACE and Handcock Forest Products. Kies will handle Fort Hill Farms. Valerie to contact Wilsonville Herb Farm and Sunrun Gardens. Art to contact Jade Hill, New Boston Beef, Go Organic LLC and Siegmund Family Farm. Tyra then suggested we should look to see how much funding we will seek from the EDC. Vern discussed Thompson Community Day and Randy was hoping to have bails of hay but hoping the weather will cooperate. Vern stated he would contact Sabe Spaulding if hay is needed. Vern wants to make sure we have everything like the pop up tent, table and banner. Kies to bring the dairy swag and Vern wanted to know if we had any other AG related items. Vern is going to check with some local bee farmers to see if they have anything to display. Community Day is September 30 and the rain date is the next day October 1. Art might bring a giant pumpkin to display. Tyra discussed the launching of the 65 Main St Project workshop series. The public workshops will be held monthly until September 2024 usually the first Wednesday of each month. This will be the whole planning process for 65 Main. The first workshop will be October 4 at the library.

5) Announcements: Art announced that he will be stepping down from the AG Commission as of December 31.

6) Citizens Comments: N/A

7) Agenda: Ag Awareness and nomination of officers for 2024

8) Adjourn at 8:00 PM