

**MINUTES**  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**OPEN FARM DAY WORK SESSION**

**February 22, 2023**

**OPENING:** 7:00 p.m. Chairman Hansen opened the hybrid meeting by announcing the members in attendance.

**ATTENDANCE**

Burt Hansen, Chairman	Present
Lenita Bober, Commissioner	Present
Ron Cecchini, Commissioner	Absent
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Absent
Dan Cook, Commissioner	Absent
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner	Present
Zach Barnett, Alternate	Absent
Sage Fury, Alternate	Present

There were no public comments.

**Open Farm Day Discussion** Chairman Hansen began the discussion by stating that Whalley Park would be available on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Open Farm Day would begin there with members of the Agricultural Committee directing members of the public as to where the farms are and what they have in relation to agriculture. The intent of an Open Farm Day is to bring awareness to farming and how farmers function. Brochures will be created that will identify local farms and their products. The brochures could be sponsored by local business which would have an inclusion of their name/logo. A monetary donation value would be dependent on the level of sponsorship.

The first step would be to identify which farms want to be part of the program. Final preparations will be made once the participating farmers are identified. As this is the first year of the event, the Committee will start small and possibly work their way to a larger function in the coming years. Future plans could include food carts, music, etc. similar to that of the Granville Harvest Fair. The Committee will also need to determine who will volunteer to assist at Whalley Park and/or be present at each participating farm. Members of 4H and student from the Southwick Regional School will be considered. A certificate of appreciation for all volunteers will be presented after the event.

There were several suggestions such as each attendee getting a stamp at the locations they visit then holding a raffle after the event for a prize. Some incentives to raise funds for the Commission would include the sale of tee shirts.

David, Melissa and Alex Prifti, 8 Kline Road, attended the meeting for their input. Alex made several good suggestions relative to inclusion of children to get them interested in the event.

Alternate Commissioner Fury will be working on web information that will be approved to put on the Town website as well as communicating the event through other web-based means, and neighboring cities and towns. Banners and lawn signs were also suggested. The lawn signs will have a blank area for the date that can be changed from year to year.

Chairman Hansen will meet with the Select Board to present the proposal.

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Cook-Obregon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

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Burt Hansen, Chairman

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Dan Cook, Commissioner

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Zach Barnett, Alternate

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Lenita Bober, Commissioner

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Sage Fury, Alternate

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Date

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Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

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Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner

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Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner