



Ruthanne Fuller  
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Barney S. Heath  
Director

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**NEWTON FARM COMMISSION**  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 8, 2024.

Hybrid Meeting -- In Person and via Zoom

Meeting opened at 7:17 p.m. with the following attendees

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Goldman, Jefferey Zabel, Patrick Costello, Lori Yarvis, Jim Harper, Beth Wilkinson, Cheryl Lappin, and John Rice

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Allyson MacKenna (Executive Director), Paul Holt (Co-President), Dede Vittori (Co-President), and Barbara Seal (Co-Treasurer), Madelyn Sorensen (Co-Treasurer), Linda Chafets (Board Member)

**STAFF:** Brenda Belsanti, Planning & Development Department

- **Tour of the Farm**

- **Farm & Field Operations**

- Summer CSA is doing great. It took a little longer to sell out, but other farms in the area experienced the same and some have not sold out.
- The fruit share there is no history with that, so we don't know if it is better or worse.
- The Fall CSA there is an issue with a supplier so not sure how that will go. Advertising will begin shortly.
- Fundraising updates.
- Discussion for an electric truck for the Farm.
- Discussion on sustainability.
- Increased focus on food safety which may lead to some equipment needs.
- Did not get the Pomeroy Foundation Grant for the first time.
- Farmers Market is up from last year.
- High School Field Program is full and ongoing. No high school supervisor was hired this year since we had Andrea and Jeff. There has been great engagement from the participants.
- Continue to take part in the Eastern Community Farms Group.
- Participating in Non-Profit Leadership Group.
- Cummings Grant research and possible application.
- Possible usage of NNHS Graphics Department for signage and other tasks.

- Wegmans – three upcoming service learning opportunities.
- Whole Foods – received a \$3000 grant
  
- **Financials Q2, 2024**
  - The Q2, 2024 Report was presented and discussed.
  
- **Educational Programming**
  - Participated in the Library Program in June.
  - Library Display was up for two months.
  - Events – Fall Family Fun Party, Green Expo, Pumpkin Smash, YMCA community event.
  - Discussion of increasing opportunities for community engagement and communication.
  
- **Buildings, Grounds, and Other Infrastructure Issues**
  - Control panels in both greenhouses – MDAR grant?
  - Working with the CPC for rotting deck.
  - Applied for funds for the deck in April/May, but they have not made a site visit yet.
  - Building and Fire Inspection is completed. We did not have to get more fire extinguishers.
  - Another Backflow test is completed.
  - Possible use as event space for increased revenue.
  - Beaver flooding issue update.
  
- **New Business**
  - Concerns for shadows from new construction.
  
- **Meeting Minutes from August 8, 2024**
  - A motion was made to approve of minutes by Jim Harper. This motion was duly seconded by Patick Costello. This motion passed 6-0.
  
- **Adjournment**
  - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jim Harper. This motion was duly seconded by Cheryl Lappin. This motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:14 p.m.

Next meeting – **November 7, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Belsanti, Staff