

Warner Agricultural Commission Minutes

August 12th, 2024

In attendance:

Mike Biagiotti

Cathy Aranosian

Bob Bowers

Mike Amaral

Noah Courser-Kellerman

Jenny Courser

Mike Smith

Approval of Minutes from July 8th Meeting – Change made from “employee housing” to “workforce housing”. Amended minutes approved

Mike B provided an update on his discussion with Steve Taylor regarding being a speaker at an upcoming event and possible subject matter for the event. Mike B mentioned that he and Mr. Taylor liked the idea of talking about advances in bioengineering and how it applies to all types of farming. Majority feedback from the group was that bioengineering was too political a subject for a talk.

Plan was for Mike B to speak again with Mr. Taylor regarding other subject matter for a talk with “the history of sheep farming” being a subject for consideration.

Brett Ingold and Ellie Brown from Kawasiwajo Community Land Trust (KCLT) were introduced and provided an overview of the mission and work of the organization. Ms. Brown included an overview of work by other land trusts across the US – with one in particular in Washington state.

Discussion turned to Mike Smith regarding any land that the town of Warner currently owns and is looking to dispose of/gain revenue from that is also quality farmland. Mike A and Mike S discussed identifying town-held properties that can be classified as quality/rich farmland.

Mike S said he had begun a project of getting to know town-held parcels by touring them and invited AgComm members to accompany him. It was decided that Mike S would contact Mike B for an upcoming site walks that could have agricultural value.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of hosting a public AgComm event focused on providing information to the public about non-traditional ways they can acquire farm land – through purchase, lease, etc. Possible partners for the event include KCLT, Land for Good and Farm Serve Agency.

Noah K volunteered to develop the event.

Discussion then turned to AgComm developing its own social media presence. Discussion on the subject include the value and the liabilities of having such a resource. Mike S suggested that perhaps AgComm create a Facebook page with comments turned off. That idea was voted on and unanimously approved. Mike B to lead that effort.

In a discussion about the upcoming Warner Fall Foliage Festival Mike B said he would reach out to former member Bill Hanson to see if he wanted to have an AgComm float in the parade – as he had done in the past.

Items requested on next meeting's agenda are:

- Future of Warner Farmer's Market
- Update from Steve Taylor
- Warner Fall Foliage Festival

Meeting was adjourned – next week scheduled for September 9th.