

FARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Grafton County Commissioners' Office

3855 Dartmouth College Highway

N. Haverhill, NH 03774

February 7, 2012

Present: Mike Lunak, Gary Peters, Donnie Kimball, Denis Ward, David Falkenham, Heather Bryant, Bill Putnam, Paul Collins, Commissioner Ahern, Commissioner Burton and Secretary Jeri Martino

1:05 PM D. Ward opened the meeting and D. Kimball began with the Farm report.

- Revenues from the Farm stand produced \$66,331. There was \$7600 worth of donated produce and \$7005 was calculated in both produce and eggs that were used by the Jail.
- The price of milk is around \$20 but D. Kimball expects that to go down.
- Revenue as of the end of December is \$287,866 and \$35K of that comes from the Timber cut.
- Stan Weeks, consultant from UNH, came to review the current root storage area and made some recommendations. It was also suggested that the old Jail could be used after it is vacated.
- A request for vegetables for the new Jail may require another 10 acres of land to produce.

D. Kimball said that he had concerns that there may not be enough inmate labor when it comes to harvest time, plus he said he still needs help in the dairy barn and he said the labor population is down. It was suggested by G. Peters that the Farm may need to have some kind of agreement with Corrections so that if for some reason the crops are not picked, then Corrections should bear the cost of the loss and not the Farm. D. Kimball said there needs to be some kind of accounting for items purchased from the Farm for use in the Jail.

D. Ward asked how the 5 year plan was coming along and D. Kimball said he had a draft which the committee could review but he would rather it go no further at this time.

There was some discussion about when the herdsman was to retire and how that would be handled. D. Ward said that the plan should include a newer view of where the Farm is headed.

Commissioner Ahern said that Supt. Libby has requested to purchase seeds for the Jail and noted that there is a state of the art kitchen in the new facility where they will be able to process food for future use. Commissioner Ahern agreed that there needed to be a better way of accounting between the Jail and the Farm. He also said stressed the important of inmates having a place to go to expend their energies and perhaps learn some life skills.

There was continued discussion about the best way to reduce the herd, what the best formula ratio of grain and feed was and consideration of pasturing the herd. It seemed to be the consensus that there should be some reduction in the herd. G. Peters said if the Farm does reduce the herd then D. Kimball should consider improving the genetics and suggested talking with B. Putnam about that. There was also a discussion about cross breeding. D. Kimball said he wants to keep the herd pure and although that was a personal preference it was the consensus that the County should have good looking cows for people to see suggesting there should be a higher aesthetic value to the County herd.

P. Collins said that it was time for D. Kimball to make some firm decisions as to what should be done and then do them. B. Putnam agreed that it was time to move ahead because it seemed that the market for the purchase of animals was weakening.

Other discussions included sawdust and wide row planting.

Commissioner Burton said that the Farm Advisory Committee is doing exactly what it was set up to do. He informed the committee that the grand opening of the new Jail will be on the 6th of May and he hoped that everyone could attend. He said that he has faithfully supported the Farm operation. He thanked all the member of the committee for their participation before being excused to attend another function.

Forester Dave Falkenham informed the committee that he was working on boundary lines for the County property and brought a map with him to show what was marked at this point. He said he has painted the trees on the south east boundary and the goal is to get all the boundary trees painted in the next five years.

There was a discussion about cutting the trees on the bank of route 10 and D. Falkenham said this was a very precise cutting area and suggested it was difficult and should not be attempted by just anyone.

Commissioner Ahern said that he would like to see the frequency of meetings increase so the next meeting was scheduled for the 17th of April at 1:00 PM

There was no further business

2:45 PM Meeting adjourned.