

April 2014

AgNews

the newsletter of the
Chichester Agricultural Commission

chichesternh.org (under Boards & Committees)
chichesteragcom@yahoo.com

Chichester AgCom Becomes Active

The Commission was originated in 2010 and among its accomplishments was the passing of RSA 79-F regarding the taxation of farm structures and land under farm structures.

By a Warrant at the 2010 Chichester Town Meeting, residents voted "to establish the Agricultural Commission in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673:1 and RSA 673:4-b; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a membership of not less than 3 members and no more than seven members and not more than 5 alternate members consisting of at least one member from the local governing body."

At the 2011 Town Meeting, Commission members were appointed and terms were established:

Jeffrey Jordan, Ex-Officio, 2014
Michael Williams, 2014
Richard Millette, 2013
James Plunkett, 2013
Teresa Paradis, 2012
William Briggs, 2012
Stephen MacCleery, Sr., 2014

Since that time, Millette, Paradis, Briggs

and MacCleery have all been reappointed; and Ann Davis joined in 2013.

Since the Commission was originated, it accomplished the passing of RSA 79-F regarding the taxation of farm structures and land under farm structures in accordance with the general court's finding it to be in the public's interest to encourage the preservation of productive farms and associated structures.

Now, with a brochure, website and partnering with other town organizations, the AgCom has been become more active. It co-hosts the Spring 2014 "Backyard Farming" lecture series with the Chichester Garden Club, and is now scheduling guest speakers for 2015.

Thanks to member Teresa Paradis, the AgCom is now a member of NH Farm Bureau.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Events & Announcements**
- **NOFA-NH Grant**
- **Farm photos**

Purpose of an AgCom...

is to protect farmland, support the local agricultural economy, preserve rural character and promote local agriculture to community members and visitors. As ambassadors of the farming community, agricultural commissions act as educators, advisers and promoters to help keep agriculture viable in all New Hampshire communities.



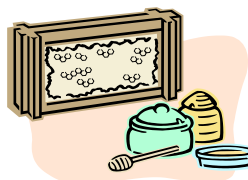
Events & Announcements

Chichester AgCom 2014 Meeting schedule: May 21; Jun 18; Jul 16; Aug 20; Sep 17; Oct 15; at this time, no meetings Nov & Dec

Chichester Garden Club & AgCom "Backyard Farming" Lecture Series, Grange Hall, 7pm -

May 28, 2014 - Beekeeping

by Beekeeper Julie Eaton



June 25, 2014 - Organic Gardening

by Master Gardener Ann Lacroix



Chichester Heritage Commission

Apr 24, 2014 - NH Preservation Alliance presenting program regarding barn and conservation easements ; refreshments provided

Chichester Old Home Days, Aug 15 & 16, 2014

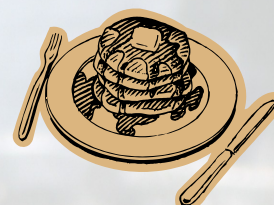
Chichester AgCom will be providing a double tent space "Farmers' Market" setting so that local residents may offer their garden produce and farm products at their individual tables

Chichester AgCom Lectures - 7pm, Grange Hall

Jan 21, 2015 - "New Hampshire's Grange Movement: Its Rise, Triumphs and Decline"
by Steve Taylor



Feb 18, 2015 - tentatively - Maple Sugaring



Mar 18, 2015 - tentatively - Organic Gardening
by Ann Lacroix



Apr, 2015 - tentatively good pests vs bad pests



Over \$40,000 in Grants Awarded to NOFA-NH, April 19, 2014

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) was awarded two grants in the first quarter of 2014. The first, \$25,000 from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF), is to support general operating expenses. The other, from NESARE (Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education), is for a pilot Technical Consultancy program, which contracts advanced growers to support beginning farmers by providing short term problem solving and other advisory services.

"The timing of these grant awards couldn't be better," said Amy Manzelli, NOFA-NH Board President. "As NOFA-NH undergoes a period of growth, the general operating grant from NHCF gives us the space to take a deep breath and look at where we are and where we want to be. The board is undergoing an intensive strategic planning process. Along with that, we are making some operational improvements that might not have happened without this critical show of support."

NOFA-NH's Beginner Farmer Coordinator, Ray Conner, adds that "the Technical Consultancy program builds on our already strong beginner farmer program offerings by adding a service that many of our beginner farmer members have been asking for: straightforward access to the state's most respected and successful organic and sustainable growers, as they learn and grow their own businesses."

"We are so grateful to both the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and NESARE for their support," said Manzelli.

The Technical Consultancy Program is modeled after a similar successful program at NOFA-New York. Advanced growers around New Hampshire may apply for a paid contract position as a Technical Consultant. A listing of Technical Consultants will then be developed and promoted, and consulting services will be accessible to all beginner farmers in New Hampshire, meaning those with fewer than ten years of commercial growing experience. All New Hampshire beginner farmers will have access to the Technical Consultant directory, whether or not they are certified Organic, and regardless of membership status at NOFA-NH. Learn more at <http://nofanh.org/technical-consultancy-program/>.

NOFA-NH is a statewide nonprofit organization that actively promotes regenerative, ecologically-sound gardening, farming and land care practices, helping people build local, sustainable, healthy food systems in our communities. To become a member, make a donation, or sign up as a volunteer, please visit www.nofanh.org or email infoATnofanh.org. - From The Forum, www.forumhome.org

