

Andover Farmers Market
Town of Andover
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
6:30 P.M.
Location: Virtual via Zoom platform

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 6:40PM
2. Roll Call: Amanda Gibson, Elaine Buchardt, Kaila Reed, Lucie Wilson, Celeste Willard, Shirley DeFlaviis,
3. Public Participation: Beth Lundberg, Suzanne Heise
4. COVID-19
 - a. How can we support our farmers during this time?

On Thursdays Over and Over is selling bread baked by Cory of Cambera Farms on an honor basis. They are also selling her soaps.

We discussed finding out what other farms in the area are doing. Who is open, who can deliver, etc. and put the information on our Facebook page. As people find out more information, we should let Amanda know so she can post it. We decided it is not a prerequisite to be AFM vendors from the past. Possibly they will become AFM vendors in the future because we are putting out their information.

It was mentioned that Hurst Farm and Cold Spring Farms are doing CSA's. We could put a shout out for them on our Facebook page.

As people get ideas for helping out CT farmers send an email to Amanda.

Elaine mentioned that currently the big farmers are hurting because restaurants are not open. A lot of them have been donating to Food Share.

Elaine mentioned that the Andover food pantry and Food share are being run on Wednesdays with the CERT organization assisting the distribution of the food to people who come. They are also delivering to people who can't come out. Those people need to contact Roberta Dougherty at the town hall to get on the list. All the food is getting packaged and handed out to people instead of them coming into the pantry and the Food share food is also getting packaged so no one is standing over the food. The pantry is open for just seniors currently. Food share is available to everyone regardless of age and income. If you need food, you need food. The food pantry is at the church on every other Wednesday morning 9-10. The next one is April 8th. The Food share is being handled at the Andover Elementary school to allow physical distancing of the workers. People picking up food do not get out of their cars. That is from 9-9:30 every other Wednesday. Next one is April 15th. Amanda will send the information to Shirley so she can get it out to church members who thought this had been suspended.
5. New Business:
 - a. Vendor Applications: The vendor applications are completed and being sent out to past vendors and a few new ones.

Amanda mentioned East Willow Farms will join us. They bought Harvest Grove Farm and will have veggies and beef. They are opening up a farm stand May 1st. We can possibly advertise them on our Facebook page if they do open.

Juniper Catering from the Coventry market will be joining us. She has some pies and other baked good which is good because Nonnies Pies are not returning. She is setting up a store.

Tony from Birch Mountain will be joining us again as well as Cambera Farms. Still waiting to hear from others.

It was mentioned that this should be a banner crop year for farmers because the weather has been so mild.

- b. Mission Statement: We looked over what Amanda wrote as a mission statement and at Suzanne's statement she has on the sponsorship letters. We thought a combination of the two would be good. Suzanne is going to work on it.
- c. Community Sponsors – Volunteer, Suzanne Heise presented a letter with information for Sponsors. Depending on the level of donation, businesses will be on the flyer, the banner and they could have a table at the market to advertise.
- d. 2020 Budget : We have \$800 in the budget currently. It was decided to spend about \$300 on promotional items such as cups, bags, a market banner. Suzanne has been checking out prices and is sending the information out to us.
- e. WIC/Senior Vouchers and EBT Machine
Amanda is working on getting the swipe machine for EBT cards to use at the market. She has filled out the application with Sarah Hill's help from Foodshare. We would like farmers that take the snap vouchers for produce. These vouchers get collected and turned into the state for reimbursement.
- d. Meghan has resigned from the AFM so Suzanne is taking her place. Suzanne was sworn in at 7:30 PM by Elaine Buchardt.

6. Public Participation

7. Adjournment at 7:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Buchardt