

Lower Connecticut River Valley

Regional Agricultural Council

February 17, 2022

Zoom Meeting

Meeting commenced at 7:01 pm

Attendees: John Halfinger, Warren Herzig, Richard Martin, Kristy Benson, Rebecca Isaacson, Walter Adametz & Ron Larsen.

- 1) Approval of minutes from January 20, 2022 meeting were tabled to March meeting since we did not have any minutes between 7-8 pm.
- 2) Public Comment- none
- 3) Website- John Halfinger mentioned that we should take some time to check the knowyourfarmers.org website for accuracy regarding your farm information.
- 4) Tractor Safety- John Halfinger commented that The Tractor Safety Zoom meeting February 24 should be mentioned on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (ie. Social Media) to spread word. Rebecca Isaacson commented that she contacted the local driving school regarding the event. It was suggested that members should also contact the local driving schools in respective towns to increase attendance.
- 5) Farm Viability Grant- Subcommittee has been meeting weekly to discuss equipment purchase and related details. John Halfinger spoke about the equipment quotes and explained that the costs have gone up since last year and that the equipment was being purchased directly from the manufacturers or their representatives and not a third party seller. This allowed for lower overall costs for each piece of equipment considered for purchase.

Richard Martin mentioned that he also had quotes from Haybuster and Landpride if needed. The Haybuster quote was \$32,500 and estimated construction in June 2022 and delivery in July 2022. Landpride could not deliver equipment this year.

Each equipment builds are specific to each order. Ron Larsen asked for some background info regarding equipment purchase. John Halfinger briefly described checks, balances, replacement parts, maintenance and having potential equipment users being vetted before allowed to use equipment. Walter Adametz commented about having an insurance rider in place. Richard Martin commented about the lack of clarity regarding equipment being towed with pickup trucks. Information could not be found when this towing question was posed to local representatives. Possible contingency plan could be addressed by having purchased equipment moved by trailer as needed. Law enforcement was also unable to answer question regarding the towing.

At the present time, the Drill could be delivered late spring and the roller crimper early spring according to John Halfinger.

Kristy Benson made a motion to approve the purchase of the no till drill and roller crimper. Walter Adametz seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Warren Herzig made a recommendation that John Halfinger attend the February 23rd River COG meeting to give a brief overview how this equipment can be used to limit erosion of soil during planting, how cover crops can be more efficiently spread across fields, and benefits for possibly using land trust property for agriculture in a responsible manner with respect to the environment. Warren also suggested that we contact our town representatives to help push approval of purchase by describing the vision and efforts of the Regional Agricultural Council and its members.

- 6) Old Business- Durham Farm Stands- Update. Warren Herzig mentioned that the Agricultural commission did not have access to the town hall this month so the discussion was pushed out to next month.
- 7) New Business- Possibility of in person meetings at Lower Connecticut River Valley in Essex. Perhaps make it a bbq or similar event.
- 8) Adjourn- Walter Adametz made a motion to adjourn. Rebecca Isaacson seconded motion. All voted in favor.
Adjournment time-7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by Alan Fenrow