

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, George Foster, Ben Dykema, Tim Kayhart, Loren Wood, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Marie Audet, Peter James, Rachel Orr, Ray Brands

9:30 am

Call to order & President's Report

Marie Audet (for Brian Kemp)

CVFC is the most important thing going to keep us being able to farm. ANR is moving full steam ahead on wetlands issues, which will be farm more significant than even the RAPs, especially from a \$\$ standpoint. Brian is in Montpelier today, Marli is trying to do a better job of involving farmers in the conservation. Our challenge is that our representatives don't understand what we do. Groups trying to bring together NOFA, Rural Vermont, CVFC and other farming organizations to have even a bigger voice.

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve October Minutes: Ben Dykema

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion: Marie/Ben...what's our thought on Abe's presentation. It was very compelling, but HOW? We need someone to buy into the concept and come up with infrastructure. Respond with a letter and ask how we can engage. Have Bob Foster part of the discussion next time. Perhaps also Julie Moore as well.

Passed (7/0/0)

Membership Applications

Kirsten Workman

Class 3 – Supporting Business Member

Philo Ridge Farm – Francine Stephens (Charlotte, VT) approved online

Cargill – Kirstin Joyal (Williston, VT)

Motion to approve membership applicatiосn as submitted: Eric Clifford

Second: Loren Wood

Disucssion: none

Passed (7/0/0)

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff presented the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss through November 7th, 2018. Asked if format is still ok. Will continue to do a periodical grant review broken out.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Ben Dykema

Second: Eric Clifford

Disucssion: none

Passed (8/0/0)

Letter from Vermont Community Fund that our application for \$2,500 is approved and going through UVM as sponsor.

EJC Consulting Contract

Jeff Carter

Review proposed 2019 contract, fees, and services.

\$5,500, a small increase in contract amount. If we approve, Jeff likely won't reformat again into constant contact.

Loren...were there options for alternative options (less \$\$)? Yes.

Marie: What about Farm Bureau? Could we get the same benefit if we were members of that organization? They are gearing up.

Ben: \$5,500 is about 30% of our membership dues...is that a good investment.

Louise: Do enough people read that update? The other value is Jane identifying topical issues and getting folks there. She was really valuable when we had folks go up there.

Peter: VFB may not have proven their full value yet...maybe by next year?

Jeff: my recommendation would be to continue with Jane this year and join VFB this year and then we can re-evaluate this year. There's a lot of things on the docket this year.

Motion to approve EJC contract not to exceed \$5,500 and join Vermont Farm Bureau:

Second: Peter James

Discussion: Tim: are we still going to have the discussion with Jane about individual contract and the value of inside scoop and getting people to the State House

Passed (8/0/1) – Eric Clifford abstained

CVFC Annual Meeting

Nate Severy

More details on CVFC Annual Membership Meeting

January 23rd, 2019

VFW-Middlebury

Directors with terms expiring:

Brian Kemp

Rachel Orr

George Foster

We have booked Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts and Secretary of ANR Julie Moore as speakers.

Sue Schmidt as a possible entertainment. Nate will be scoping her out later this month and talking to her.

Practice Tracking

Jeff Carter

Per our decision in the October meeting, UVM Extension staff will be collecting information from Directors about their implemented farm conservation practices (no-till, manure injection, cover cropping, etc). In order to get GIS shape files, crop reports and other tools to assist with this, we will need signed releases from each Director to enable FSA to easily share that information with us.

Program Reports

Nate Severy/Louise Waterman

Other Items

All

Upcoming Dates:

November 29th – Cover Crop Field Day at Blue Spruce Farm, 10-12 on Rattlin Bridge Road

December 5th/6th – CVFC Strategic Planning Session (ALL Board Members)

December 13th – CFVC Member Leadership Training, followed by social hour with Board Members

10:15 ADJOURN Meeting to begin DiSC Leadership Training.

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Dec.5, 2018