

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



In Attendance:

Board of Directors: Kirsten Workman, Jeff Carter, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Brian Kemp, Loren Wood, Peter James, Ernie Audet, Ted Foster, Eric Clifford, Ben Dykema,

Staff: Nate Severy

CVFC Members: Brad Lawes, Ed Schilliwaski, Phil Livingston Jr., Bill Kipp, Eric Severy, Ray Brands, Harvey Smith, Bill Barnes, Dan Barnes

Public: Phil Wagner (VBPA), Rico Balzano (UVM Extension), Kristin Williams (UVM Extension)

10:05 am: BUSINESS MEETING CALLED TO ORDER (Jeff Carter)

Welcome and introductions

Jeff Carter

Election of Officers

Jeff Carter

Jeff Carter facilitated a roll call of all Board of Directors Present (see above). Absent members of the board included: David Conant and Tim Kayhart. Jeff requested nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer as follows:

President:

Loren Wood nominated sitting president, Eric Clifford to continue serving in that role.

Eric Clifford declined nomination

Ted Foster nominated Brian Kemp, seconded by Lorenzo Whitcomb

Vice President:

Peter James nominated sitting Vice President, Ben Dykema, to continue serving in that role, seconded by Lorenzo Whitcomb

Secretary:

Ernie Audet nominated Kirsten Workman to retain her seat as Secretary, seconded by Lorenzo Whitcomb

Treasurer:

Peter James nominated Jeff Carter to retain his seat as Treasurer, seconded by Ray Brands

Ted Foster motioned that all four Board of Directors officer positions be approved as nominated. Ernie Audet seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed without dissent or abstention.

Installation of 2015 Officers

Jeff Carter officially installed the following officers of the Board of Directors of the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc. for 2015:

President, Brian Kemp

Vice President, Ben Dykema

Secretary, Kirsten Workman

Treasurer, Jeff Carter

Comments were taken from newly elected officers

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

Kirsten presented the minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting January 14, 2015.

Motion: Ernie Audet moved to accept the minutes as presented

Second: Ben Dykema

Discussion: correct the spelling of 'Kayhart' in the attendance list

Passed without dissent or abstention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff Carter presented the current profit and loss statement and balance sheet through January 31, 2015.

Motion: Ted Foster moved to approve the Treasurer's Report

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion: Taxes will be started in February, and will utilize a local tax preparation service

Passed without dissent or abstention

Membership Application Approvals

Kirsten Workman

Four Class 1 (Vermont Farmer – voting members) applications:

Phil Livingston, Rail View Dairy

Kylie Quesnel, Walker Heifer Farm

Cheryl Dowd, Dowd's Maple Hill Dairy

Justin Almeida, The Almeida Farm

Two Class 3 (Supporting Business) applications

Champlain Valley Equipment

Dairy One

Motion: Ernie Audet moved to accept all applications as presented

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: emphasized to reach out to new members to engage and let them know we are here for assistance if needed.

Passed without dissent or abstention

10:30am: Water Quality Discussion

All those in attendance had a thorough discussion of the two bills coming from the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources:

- Water Quality H.35 - An Act Relating to Improving the Quality of State Waters
- Manure Spreading H.54 - An act relating to manure application on farms located in watersheds of nutrient impaired lakes.

In addition to the regulatory implications, the funding needs for VAAFME alone to fund positions to implement small farm rules/inspection would be \$1.2 million dollars to fund staffing needs. CVFC felt that portion of the funding should come from the agriculture sector.

The group decided to draft a letter to the legislative committees stating the following:

- \$1.2 million should come from ag industry in an equitable fashion, so that all farms contribute according to their scale.
- Provide recommendations (based on PA and ME) on defining a small farm
- Supportive of custom manure applicator certification...should be similar to pesticide applicator requirements.

The group asked how we keep up with all the changes happening in Montpelier, and decided that email would be the most appropriate way. Friday updates from Jane Clifford, take any input from the group. If any formal communication deemed necessary, it would be drafted to be submitted before the first committee meetings on Tuesday mornings.

Farmers Watershed Alliance & CVFC

12:37 PM Ben Dykema moved to ADJOURN the meeting

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Meeting Adjourned

Next CVFC Board of Director Meeting - March 4, 2015 Middlebury, VT