

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Monday, February 6, 2017

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



## **Directors Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2017**

**Attendance:** Brian Kemp, George Foster, Peter James, Loren Wood, Ben Dykema, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Marie Audet, Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, Kirsten Workman

### **9:30am Meeting called to order by Brian Kemp, President.**

Jeff read a letter sent by Sec. Anson Tebbetts thanking CVFC for including him in our annual meeting. Many members heard positive feedback about the annual meeting

### **Election of Officers for 2017**

*Motion to nominate Brian Kemp as President: Loren Wood*

*Second: George Foster*

*Discussion*

*Vote: (5/0/1)*

*Motion to nominate Marie Audet as Vice-President: Peter James*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Discussion: Marie accepted nomination and*

*Vote: (5/0/1)*

*Motion to nominate Kirsten Workman as Secretary: Loren Wood*

*Second: George Foster*

*Discussion*

*Vote: (6/0/0)*

*Motion to nominate Jeff Carter as Treasurer: Brian Kemp*

*Second: Peter James*

*Discussion*

*Vote: (6/0/0)*

### **Alteration to by-laws to allow more flexibility in Annual Meeting Date**

*Motion to amend by-laws to change allow annual meeting to be 'In the month of January' instead of specific date: Jeff Carter*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion: currently says, 'second Wednesday of January'*

*Vote: (7/0/0)*

## Secretary Report

Kirsten presented January meeting minutes and new membership applications

*Motion to accept January minutes as presented: Marie Audet*

*Second: Ben Dykema*

*Discussion:*

*Vote: (7/0/0)*

## Membership Applications

The following applications for membership (received since our last meeting) were presented by Kirsten Workman:

Anne Murphy, Addison County Dairy Consultants Inc. (Vergennes) – Business Member

Jennifer Alexander (Hampton, NY) – Individual Member

Jed Rubin (Pawlet) – Vermont Farm Member

Pamela Stefanek (Benson) – Vermont Farm Member

Brian & Cindy Kayhart (New Haven) – Vermont Farm Member

*Motion to accept new membership applications as presented: Brian Kemp*

*Second: Marie Audet*

*Discussion*

*(7/0/0)*

## Treasurer Report

Jeff presented Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, Transaction Detail and current membership list

*Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented: Eric Clifford*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion: accounts receivable = non-renewed members? Some just haven't paid yet in 2017, some are overdue from 2016. Write a letter to long overdue folks and communicate value and work with Louise.*

*(7/0/0)*

*Discussion: Employees and Insurance. Nate and Louise are now part-time staff for CVFC so Unemployment insurance and Workers Comp insurance needs to be in place for them. Jeff will get quotes and policies set up. Directors will not be part of these policies since they are not paid by CVFC.*

## Open Meeting Minutes

10:00am

Welcome and CVFC President Comments

**Brian updated members on business meeting happenings**

### **Legislative Event on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

**9-10:30 (Senate Ag)**

**10:30 – 12:00 (House Ag)**

**TBD House Fish & Wildlife...to talk about funding**

Brian will attend. Would like someone to join him.

Harvey S is concerned about tone and tenor of legislature in terms of mainstream ag in Vermont. Reiterated the need for farmers to go to Montpelier.

Marie A: folks are fast and loose with the facts,

Brian: Farm Bureau, NOFA, others want all farms to farm how they want if they are protecting water quality and soil health.

What are our talking points:

- Accurate numbers
- Carbon footprint, soil fertility,
- Economics
- What are we already doing?

Eric C: Need to be careful not to pit organic vs. conventional...in fact the opposite...talk to the specifics of regenerative ag...share with other watershed groups before Friday.

### ▪ **Other Business**

- **Yankee FC Crop Insurance Workshop (2/10/17 | 11:00 – 2:00 PM | Middlebury Inn)**
- **Specialty Crop Block Grant RFP through Agency of Agriculture**
  - [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer\\_partner\\_resources/funding\\_opportunities/vaafm\\_funding/specialty\\_crop](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities/vaafm_funding/specialty_crop)
- **Tile Drainage Report**
  - [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water\\_quality/Research/TD-Report/Vermont-Subsurface-Agricultural-Tile-Drain-Report-01312017.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water_quality/Research/TD-Report/Vermont-Subsurface-Agricultural-Tile-Drain-Report-01312017.pdf)
  - Inconclusive, need more time
  - Could no-till be detrimental? What about manure injection?
  - Miner Inst. Research
- **RAPs**
  - Agency has proposed that RAPs are not reopen in 18 months, but postpone to align with Tile Drainage report timeline (5 years)
  - Was it a bait and switch? Brian voiced concerns to Anson Tebbits and Alyson Eastman.
  - If they were to reopen, they would have to start now (before they are implemented). Ryan Patch reiterated there would be flexibility in the meantime.
  - Act 64 may say something different
  - Matt S.: It is going to take more than 18 months to figure out how to do it. Most of their clients are there.

- Agency knows better than anybody does what they can accomplish. 700+ farms is a giant lift. We need to support them and hope for progress. New administration, give them some time and support.
- **What do we want to achieve this year?**
  - Ben: work together and help the state...how to we reach out to farms who have negative issues. Funding? Better use of time to help farms fix problems than big picture stuff.
  - Make sure the agencies and enforcement utilize us as a resource.
  - Focus on farms that need additional assistance
  - Focus in on geographic areas
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- **Outreach**
  - Can we multitask? When we have folks in the room (at a clinic, workshop), make sure and include the media. Laura H, etc. Also a member recruitment opportunity. Take it to the next level...get the most out them.
  - Kristin will be helping organizational support...help Nate/Louise focus on their roles more.
  - Nate's Plan: (bold is priority)
    - Custom Manure Trainings – owner/operator/full-time employee (St. Albans, St. Johnsbury, Middlebury)
    - (3) Farmer/Employee On-Farm Manure Trainings – March 22-24
    - Media Training for Farmers (after a Board Meeting?) April 5th or other date.
    - Corn Planter Clinics: DeFreest (Warren), Huletts
    - **Buffers/Setbacks/Grassed Waterways (end of April, staggered through summer)**
    - What to expect at your inspection? (see above)
    - Cover Crops as Forage (beginning of May)
    - Cover Crops as Grain Crops (July)
    - Spring Bus Tour (May)
    - Nitrogen Mgt in No-Till Corn
    - Interseeding Cover Crops
    - Combining Cover Crops
    - Breakfast on the Farm
      - July 22<sup>nd</sup> Blue Spruce Farm
      - June 17<sup>th</sup> Fairmont Farms
    - Farmer Coalition Family Picnic (August)
    - AC Field Days
    - Tile Drainage Installation & Management for WQ...george tucker and wetlands
    - No-till new seedings
    - Jim Gerrish...high level pasture management for beef (mid-august at Josh Lucas')
    - OC NRCD Cons. Farm Year Bus Tour (September)
    - Large scale heifer grazing – economics
    - Addison Co. Ag Showcase
    - Grain Drill Clinics...different drills at one place

- Manure Injection...dragline on floodplains,
  - Compost heat recovery
  - Manure separation @ Brissons
  - Madison's manure management, barnyard, leachate systems
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- **Spring Bus Tour Soil Health:** Focus on legislature and Soil Health (May 1-5)
  - **Videos to share with Legislature...more short videos**
  - **Breakfast on the Farm...invite governor, allow for a press conference**
  - **ECHO...why is clean water important to you...can we get them to work with Laura H. Will keep trying.**

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**12:30 Motion ADJOURN Meeting : George Foster**  
**Second: Peter James**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, March 2nd, 2017**