



Monadnock Farm and Community Connection Forum

Agricultural Commissions in Your Hometown

November 10, 2009
6:30pm
Heberton Hall, Keene NH

Agenda

- 6:30** **Welcome and introduction to the evening,**
Amanda Costello, Cheshire County Conservation District
- 6:40** **MFCC Farm Inventory and Mapping**
Jeffrey Littleton- Conservation Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological
- 6:55** **Agricultural Commissions**
John Lippmann, Cheshire County Conservation District
- 7:10** **Group Activity**
Ag Commissions - why we need them and what they can do for our communities
- 7:25** **Report Out on Activity**
- 7:40** **Break—Local Ice Cream and Cider!**
- 7:50** **Panel Discussion**
Moderator— Meg Fairchild, Cheshire Co. Conservation District & Antioch University
Linda Ray Wilson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the NH
Division of Historical Resources
John Salo, Marlow Agricultural Commission Member & Tree Farm Owner
Erick Sawtelle, Lee Agricultural Commission Chair & Full time farmer/
owner of Pinewoods Yankee Farm in Lee
Pete Westover, Conservation Works partner & contractor for MA Dept. Of
Agricultural Resources
- 8:30** **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

*The Monadnock Farm and Community Connection (MFCC) is working to
strengthen local food and farm connections to enhance the vitality of our community.*

MFCC is a program of the Cheshire County Conservation District
603.756.2988 ext.116 or Amanda.costello@nh.nacdnet.net
11 Industrial Park Dr Walpole NH 03608



Group Activity Directions:

- Each group will have **15 minutes to discuss the guiding questions** below.
 - At the start of the activity please choose 3 people; 1 to capture key points on the newsprint, 1 to keep track of time, and 1 to report back to the large group at the end of the discussion.
 - Please **keep conversations positive, supportive, and action oriented**. If you are offering constructive criticism please offer ideas for solutions.
 - **When recording key points**, please be as specific as possible. This information will be passed on to the MFCC Inventory Committee for their future planning and program development. When ideas are clear and detail is provided this ensures that the info gathered will be of great assistance to the respective groups. We will also be compiling this information and distributing it to participants for their own use.
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Guiding Questions



Group 1

- 1.) What excites you about starting an Agricultural Commission?
 - 2.) Other folks in your town may not share this same excitement. How would you engage other community members in the discussion and gain their support in starting an Agricultural Commission?
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Group 2

- 1.) What agricultural issues do you have in your town?
(examples - Land-use planning, zoning, conservation)
 - 2.) How could an Agricultural Commission help address these issues?
(examples - Gathering groups together, surveying needs of farms, mediation)
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Group 3

- 1.) Check out the map provided to you by the Monadnock Farm and Community Connection (this is an example town). What kinds of community planning and education could an Agricultural Commission do if provided this information?
(consider zoning, farm promotion, land conservation, etc.)
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Please be ready to report out at 7:25pm. At the end of the activity each group will be asked to report back and share the questions they answered and 3 key points discussed. Please keep all statements brief and refrain from repeating comments previously mentioned.

Thanks for Participating and Sharing Your Ideas!