

## **Gill Agricultural Commission – March 4, 2010 – Minutes**

Here: Steve Damon, Bruce Yukl, Kathy Litchfield

Call to Order

Approval of January and February minutes – all agree; minutes approved.

### Old Business:

Restaurant Guide – Kathy designed restaurant guide; David Detmold at the Montague Reporter would love someone to write an article about it and submit for publication; Steve is distributing them around and will include in school mailing.

Sugarhouse Open House – Sunday March 21 – Kathy to design sugarhouse tour flyer including farm names, addresses and what else you can find there. Steve will have these at the sugarhouses on the day of the event so people can follow directions to get to the next one. Kathy to send PR for this to the newspapers; Steve said Mary McClintock is also interested in our activities.

“Match Our Gift” – cardboard donation from M&M for use as kindling now will be used as mulch. Steve has much of it in his garage and will give to farmers for mulch.

Farm to School – nothing new said Steve; but Gill Elementary School started a salad bar for the kids.

### New Business:

Farm Excise Tax – Steve is talking with Pete Westover about this; some farmers aren't too concerned while others are.

Agri-ship Reimbursement – Bruce & Kathy agree that the Ag Commission should pay Steve back for the money he gave to two farmers to attend MA Maple Producers' winter meeting. Next time he'll follow proper channels to have our budget pay for these agri-ships. Perhaps we should make an agri-ship deadline so this does not happen again.

Next Farmers' Market – people are excited; when will next one be? Steve to check calendar; perhaps Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>, then mid-August, then at the Friends of Gill Craft Fair Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, then in January 2011.

Potato Night – Steve and Sorrell (of Upinngil Farm) were talking about her potatoes which are sprouting and helping her use them; they decided October is a good month for having a “potato night” at the Gill Congo Church.

Next Meeting: Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Change of date!