

Ag Com Meeting. Monday March 3, 2014

Bob Nickerson, Dave Grinkis, Susan Phinney, Ann Starbard Guests - Don and Janet Segur.

Call to order 7:35

minutes for November 1st Dave. G 2nd. Ann Approved

Janet & Don Segur discussed the Grange, with some general historical information and then specific local Sterling information. Historically, the Grange started in late 1800 after Civil War. to band farmers together. Family activities. Women allowed to vote and equal to men. Principle - support agriculture which is still the main focus today.

Sterling Grange - Had a niche in the 1970's A leader arranged wonderful trips but you had to be grange member to go. 1970's 300 members. In 2008, Sterling merged with Shirley. Currently there are 30 members with 10 members regularly coming to meetings. Don and Janet Segur are affiliates of Sterling, members of Holden. The group wants to renovate the hall (The building was moved from the Oakdale area of Wachusett reservoir) and reacquaint Grange to the local community. Looking for new members. Common focus recently established for Granges nationally - agricultural education - MA State Grange - Investing \$100,000 in U Mass Learning Center. trying to connect with 4-H and FFA. Some connection with Ag Coms and Grange.

Discussion about having a farm tour and market festival and the Grange will consider being a central location for a farm tour event. Looking at dates in August - ???
Phinney will contact Lisa Perry to see if she wants to do this? Ann contact Dawn Hartnett.

MAAC annual meeting invitation - March 15, in Old Mill, Westminster, MA 10am - 3pm.

Reviewed Annual Report - Phinney suggested to include the Farm Tour Day as the Ag Com did sponsor it.

Dave Grinkis will contact the Sterling Meetinghouse News to place the Annual Notice for Sterling Right to Farm Law.

Phinney put forth a follow up on a November minutes - there was no ag study done in Concord.

Adjourned S. Phinney, D. Grinkis, approved. 8:50 pm

Submitted, Ann Starbard, Clerk