

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
October 14, 2020

OPENING: The remote Zoom meeting is being held in pursuant to the Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

ATTENDANCE

Burt Hansen, Chairman	Present
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Vice Chairman	Present
Dennis Clark, Commissioner	Present
Dan Cook, Commissioner	Present
Zach Barnett, Commissioner	Present
Ron Cecchini, Commissioner	Present
Brett Colson, Commissioner	Absent
Lenita Bober, Commissioner	Absent
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Absent
Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner	Absent

7:00 pm: Chairman Hanson opened the meeting announced all members in attendance, that the meeting was being recorded, and noted the regulations associated with a remote meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes to the previous meeting were not available. Commissioner Clark made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting. Roll call vote:

Burt Hansen – yes
Dennis Clark – yes
Zach Barnett – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dan Cook – yes
Ron Cecchini - yes

Feldman Farm Commissioner Clark received a call from Mr. Feldman requesting that his name and property be removed from the agenda as he has no interest in help from the Agricultural Commission in securing a Conservation Plan from the NRCS.

Signs Vice-Chairman Cook-Obregon issued an estimate in the amount of \$2,502.03 from the Sign Shop, Inc. in Westfield for the Right to Farm signs that will be installed along the highways in Southwick. There will be 13 signs in total. The signs will be completed when the material to make them becomes available.

Kestrel APR Signs Vice-Chairman Cook-Obregon has confirmation that the signs are available for pick up. There are two farms that confirmed the sign installation on their APR property. Other potential farms are the Whalley, Solek and Brzoska farms.

Field Trips The Commissioners will plan on a site visit to Blossoming Acres in the spring. Commissioner Cecchini will contact Tom McLaughlin for a possible site visit to his tobacco farm.

Farm Brochure Vice Chairman Cook Obregon is currently laying out the design for inserting pictures and completing a list of farms. Pictures on Face book by Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon may be used. Chairman Hansen will complete a mission statement for the brochure.

Mort Vining Property Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon has had no communication with the property owners of the Mort Vining property. It may be possible that the property will be divided, but could potentially qualify for APR.

Kellogg Commissioner Clark stated that the land was essentially a habitat priority and not a property lending itself to Agricultural Commission jurisdiction.

58 & 64 Tannery Road Commissioner Cecchini talked with the property owner who stated that he had no interest in land preservation at this time.

Census Chairman Hansen is still working on a land management map to identify specific map and parcel numbers as issued by the Assessor's Office.

Community Garden Chairman Hansen stated that the well has been dry since August due to the drought. All participants will be notified that the garden will be rototilled once the rocks placed by the gardeners are removed. Commissioner Cecchini volunteered to do the tilling.

Dan Cecchini Commissioner Clark made a motion to request the Select Board to appoint Commissioner Cook as a full time member. Commissioner Cook's appointment would total 7 full time members and 3 Associate members. Chairman Hansen seconded the motion. The roll call vote of the Commission is as follows:

Burt Hanson – yes
Dennis Clark – yes
Zach Barnett – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dan Cook – yes
Ron Cecchini - yes

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hanson – yes
Dennis Clark – yes
Zach Barnett – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dan Cook – yes
Ron Cecchini - yes

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission is November 18th, due to the November 11th Holiday

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board
Town Clerk

Bret Hanson, Chairman

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Vice Chairman

Dennis Clark, Commissioner

Dan Cook, Commissioner

Zach Barnett, Commissioner

Tammy Clark-Bissaillon, Commissioner

Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

Brett Colson, Commissioner

Lenita Bober, Commissioner

Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner

Date