

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
January 13, 2021

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	Present
Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner	Absent

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/18/20 with corrections. Chairman Hansen seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows

Burt Hansen – yes	Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dennis Clark – yes	Dan Cook – yes
Zach Barnett – yes	Ron Cecchini – yes
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon – yes	

ATTENDANCE

Ms. Lynn Blair, Director, Southwick Public Library, attended the meeting to discuss a seed library. The program started last year on the idea that people would take seeds, vegetable and flower, for planning then replace them at the end of the growing season from their plants. Ms. Blair is looking to repurpose an old library catalog cabinet to accommodate seed envelopes. The program is scheduled for kick off in the spring with a partnership with others who already have participated in a similar program. Ms. Blair will also be looking for possible donations from

local farmers. Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon will work with Ms. Blair on promoting the program.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 22 Budget The Commission members discussed a proposal for the fiscal year 2022 budget. The previous year budget only provided funds of \$500.00 for supplies. There are several budgetary items that are needed such as a new well and fencing for the Community Garden, printing the Farm Brochure, and travel and conference expenses for educational purposes to promote farming and open space. As the budgets are due before the next meeting, Commissioner Clark made a motion to allow Chairman Hansen final approval of the proposed budget. Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hansen – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes

Dennis Clark – yes

Dan Cook – yes

Zach Barnett – yes

Ron Cecchini – yes

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon – yes

OLD BUSINESS

Mildred Smith Commissioner Clark stated that the watercress found on the property is difficult to irradiate. The only proven method is through a chemical application. It may be possible to apply to the State for funding for the removal.

Farm Brochure Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon is working on the addition of pictures on the brochure. Because they will need several copies, high resolution pictures are required. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon suggested that the pictures be taken in the spring or summer when there is more farming activity. Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon also suggested that Granville farms be included in the brochure.

APR Prospects Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon contacted members of the Prifti family concerning property off of Kline, Fred Jackson and Granville Roads.

Kellogg Commissioner Clark will contact the Franklin Land Trust to get mapping information on the property. If the land can be preserved, a new appraisal may be required for a grant. There has been interest from various individuals on purchasing the property on the East side for development, but the parcel may require substantial engineering and expense to cross the brook. Commissioner Clark did discuss the land with someone who may be interested in it to grow hemp.

Census Chairman Hansen stated that there was no further progress on the census.

Community Garden The Commissioners discussed the need for a deeper well at the location. The existing well did dry up last season, as the Town experienced drought conditions. There is a pond nearby that could be used for irrigation through a pump, but that too dried up during the drought.

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Commissioner Barnett seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hansen – yes

Dennis Clark – yes

Zach Barnett – yes

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes

Dan Cook – yes

Ron Cecchini – yes

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission is scheduled for February 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

Bert Hansen, 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