

**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
November 18, 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	Present
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

Chairman Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/15/20, 8/19/20, 9/16/20, and 10/14/20 with corrections. Vice Chairman 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
Brett Colson – yes	Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon – yes

NEW BUSINESS

Mildred Smith Commissioner Clark received a call from Mrs. Smith concerning an invasive species of plant growing in the brook along her property. The plant may be a watercress that is non-native and invasive. It chokes the brook and restricts water flow. Mrs. Smith inquired about a chemical treatment to irradiate the plans. Commissioner Cecchini will contact the USDA for more information on the plant.

Seed Library Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon discussed a seed library. Questions on the type, variety and availability will need to be considered before implementing the library. Once packets become available, the user can restock the seed supply from their harvest. The Agricultural Commission members thought it was a very good idea and the seeds should include all types of plants, not just vegetables. Chairman Hansen will email the Community Garden participants for their participation in the next growing season.

OLD BUSINESS

Right to Farm Signs Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon stated that the signs are still in the production process. Each character and letter needs to be specific to comply with the DOT.

Kestrel APR Signs Vice-Chairman Cook-Obregon has distributed signs to the Coward, Blossoming Acres, Flynn and Solek farms along with posts, nuts & bolts for installation. There are two more signs available.

Farm Brochure Chairman Hansen is working on a mission statement for the brochure. Chairman Cook-Obregon presented a design including pictures of local farming activities and animals. Commissioner Colson will forward pictures in HD that will be more compliant with the ability to print the brochures on 14 X 18 ½ paper. The Committee members agreed to include Granville, but want to address agricultural venues, and not expand it to a variety of retail/wholesale businesses not associated with agriculture.

Mort Vining Property A Letter of Intent was issued to the Commission from Val Shvetz, Oak Ridge Custom Home Builders Inc. along with a purchase and sale agreement in the amount of \$800,000.00. The letter indicated that the property would be developed either by 12 ANR frontage lots in the first phase, then build a subdivision in the back 65 acres. Mr. Shvetz was requesting that the roll back from Chapter 61A be conducted in phases. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon did talk with the owners who stated that the process of preserving the land in APR was too lengthy of a process. The Commission agreed that there was no way to come up with \$800,000.00 to exercise the Right of First Refusal under the Chapter 61 process and regrettably passed on the option to preserve the property.

APR Prospects Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon did speak with the owners of property on Kline Road/Fred Jackson Road who expressed an interest in land preservation.

Kellogg Commissioner Clark stated that a retailer called requesting information on the parcel. The Kestrel Land Trust may still be interested in retaining preservation for the parcel.

58 & 64 Tannery Road Commissioner Clark discovered that there were three parcels of land conjoined at one time. The parcels have since been divided into one 7 acre lot that has a current dwelling, and two other vacant lots of approximately 40+ acres. The owner of record will be researched so that Commissioner Cecchini can contact them to discuss land preservation.

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

Community Garden Commissioner Cecchini completed the tilling once the large rocks were removed.

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

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

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dan Cook – yes
Ron Cecchini – yes
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon – yes

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission is scheduled for December 9, 2020

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