

**MINUTES**  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**August 10, 2022**

**OPENING:** 7:00 p.m. Chairman Hansen opened the hybrid meeting by announcing the members in attendance.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**MINUTES**

Chairman Hansen made a **motion** to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022. Zach Barnett, Alternate, **seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Burt Hansen- Yes  
Zach Barnett- Yes  
Maryssa Cook-Obregon- Yes  
Sage Fury- Yes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carol and Dana Guay of 173 Mort Vining rd

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Sofinowski Preserve-** Carol and Dana Guay brought this presentation to the Agricultural Commission with concerns of the upkeep of the Sofinowski preserved land. The land is

becoming very overgrown with saplings and underbrush. Her husband and herself have been caring for the land as much as they can. The entrance and side view of the big pond is overgrown and the pond is no longer visible. The previous owners of this land had all of the required equipment and goats to graze and care for this land. Carol and Dana Guay don't want to see this land kept and preserved as it should. The Commission discussed possibilities as to how they could care for the land such as volunteer work and also planned to make a joint site visit with the Conservation Commission to go out as a group to see what exactly needs to be done. The Commission agrees that this land should be kept up for our community and hikers to enjoy its beauty.

**Comm Garden signs-** This is easily missed due to the lack of Signs. Alternate Sage Fury would like to see something that catches the communities eyes and draws attention to the area. This entrance is also another entrance to the Sofinowski Preserve mentioned previously. This area leads to multiple other trails for hikers to enjoy. Commissioner Maryssa Cook-Obregon mentions that the commission could work together with the Conservation Commission to better the signage for both the Gardens and the Trails. The Commission will think of ideas to make up the sign or signs for the Agricultural part (The Community Garden).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Commissioner Appointments Chairman-** Commissioner Maryssa Cook-Obregon, and Alternate Zach Barnett have been re-appointed and will go to be sworn in at the clerks office.

**Master Plan** Chairman Hansen re-laid that the survey is going to be conducted from late June to August 31<sup>st</sup>. As of August 4th, 2022 there have been 369 surveys completed online and 14 hardcopy origins turned in. After August 31st there are going to be focus groups on potentially Thursday, October 13th, and Saturday, October 15th. After that, there will be focus groups based on topics. Housing, Transportation, Business developments, etc. The link for this is on the Town website The Master Plan committee also has [www.Southwick2040.com](http://www.Southwick2040.com)

Chairman Hansen spoke of the master plan meeting one week prior and the school representative Patrick Job said that the Schools have a relationship with Smith Vocational in Northampton Ma. Smith Vocational has agricultural programs. Agricultural mechanics, animal science, horticulture, and forestry. Commissioner Maryssa Cook-Obregon commented that this school has taken a lot of land in Northampton and kept it as active agricultural fields offering hands-on experiences for the students.

**Farm Brochure** Commissioner Maryssa Cook-Obregon brought 1,000 brochures that will be placed around Town and handed out through Town Hall this September.

**Community Garden** The community garden is half rented. There are 14 rented sections and 13 available sections.

**Open Farm Day-** Chairman Burt Hansen Spoke about not having Open Farm Day this year and starting to plan for the next year 2023. The Town has many events this Fall and the desired location is fully booked. A believed good time for next year would possibly be the fourth Saturday in August 2023. This gives the Farmer that wishes to be involved plenty of time to make arrangements and plans as to what they would like to bring to Open Farm Day.

**Agricultural Commission Magazine-** Sage Fury Alternative suggested that the commission gets students and other Commissions to work together to become lively in protecting the Town by creating this magazine as a team. The Students can also use this as a chance to add to their College resumes by being part of and having an article published in a magazine.

Chairman Hansen made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Zach Barnett **seconded** the motion. The vote of the Committee was unanimous in favor.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Burt Hansen- Yes

Zach Barnett- Yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon- Yes

Sage Fury- Yes

Respectfully submitted,

---

Cynthia Barton

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

---

Burt Hansen, Chairman

---

Brett Colson, Vice Chairman

---

Dan Cook, Commissioner

---

Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

---

Zach Barnett, Commissioner

---

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner

---

Dennis Clark, Commissioner

---

Lenita Bober, Commissioner

---

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

---

Date