

**MINUTES**  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE**  
**REMOTE PARTICIPATION**  
**April 29, 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 Hanson, Chairman	Present
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Vice Chairman	Present
Dennis Clark, Commissioner	Present
Dan Cook, Commissioner	Absent
Zach Barnett, Commissioner	Present
Ron Cecchini, Commissioner	Present
Brett Colson, Commissioner	Present
Lenita Bober, Commissioner	Absent
Tammy Clark-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Absent
Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner	Absent

Also in attendance was: Doug Moglin, Selectboard

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4:30 pm: Chairman Hanson opened the meeting announced that the meeting was being recorded, and noted the regulations associated with a remote meeting.

**MINUTES**

Chairman Hanson made a motion to accept the minutes of April 8, 2020. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hanson – yes  
Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes  
Dennis Clark – yes  
Zach Barnett – yes  
Ron Cecchini – yes  
Bret Colson – yes

**Signs** Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon consulted with Randy Brown, DPW Director, about the signs. The DPW will install them and Mr. Brown will assist in providing vendor options for reflective signs approximately 24 X 24. The application is due on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon will work on getting quotes for the signs this weekend.

The Selectboard is submitting an application Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for \$15,000.00 to purchase signs to be placed on Town owned recreational and open space properties. The Commissioners decided to submit a separate application for the Right to Farm Signage to the CPC. Vice Chair Cook-Obregon stated that Kestrel Land Trust will provide signs for APR properties at no charge and will not be included in the application to the CPC.

**FY 2021 Budget** Commissioner Clark stated that he and Agricultural Commission Chair Burt Hanson attended the Finance Committee Zoom Meeting and was disappointed that the Finance Committee did not consider the Agricultural Commission essential and voted no on all of the budget requests that they submitted. But it was decided at that meeting that the that the Agricultural Committee was an established Committee through a vote at Town Meeting, thus should have a budget for FY 21. Select Board Vice Chairman Doug Moglin confirmed and stated the Select Board does consider the Agricultural Commission as essential and is proposing to include some funding in the Agcom budget, and even though the Zoom meetings are recorded, minutes still need to be produced as a matter of record reinforcing the need for a secretary. Mr. Moglin further stated that the Agricultural Committee members are doing important work. The Commissioners thanked Selectman Moglin for attending and his support. Commissioner Clark stated that he would be available if the Finance Committee or Select Board has questions.

**Farm Brochure** Commissioner Colson stated that he was still working on the farm brochure. Commissioner Clark is in the final process of revising the Town's Open Space Map and has all Chapter 61 lands on the map and included in the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan spreadsheets. There are several parcels that are not actively farmed, but designated as Chapter 61 which has a lower tax rate than residential properties. Commissioner Clark will send a complete listing of the Chapter 61 lands to the members for their review.

**APR Land** Chairman Hanson will contact Mr. Ron Hall, Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, to invite him to an Agricultural Commission meeting.

**Community Garden** Chairman Hanson said that the Community Garden has 125 likes on Facebook. All but 7 of the plots are reserved. Commissioner Ron Cecchini did a great job tilling the plots. The fence posts will need to be replaced with a more durable, long lasting material. Commissioner Cecchini stated that they the gate is currently wide enough to get his equipment in for tilling. Chairman Hanson was given 10 bales of straw from the Eversource project on Mort Vining Road. They can be used for walkways or in the plots for weed deterrent. The 7 plots that are not reserved could be planted with rye to prevent an overgrowth of weeds. The well is in good working order.

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hanson – yes  
Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes  
Dennis Clark – yes  
Zach Barnett – yes  
Ron Cecchini – yes  
Bret Colson – yes

**The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission is TBD**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board  
Town Clerk

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Bret Hanson, Chairman

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Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Vice Chairman

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Dennis Clark, Commissioner

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Dan Cook, Commissioner

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Zach Barnett, Commissioner

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Tammy Clark-Bissaillon, Commissioner

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Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

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Brett Colson, Commissioner

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Lenita Bober, Commissioner

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Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner

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Date