

**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

April 8, 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 Clark-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Present
Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner	Absent

Also in attendance was: Joe Deedy, Selectman

4:30 pm: Chairman Hansen opened the meeting announced 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
Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes
Dennis Clark – yes
Dan Cook – yes
Zach Barnett – yes
Tammy Clark-Bissaillon – yes
Ron Cecchini - yes

Signs Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon stated that there is no update on the signs, but will check with Randy Brown, DPW Director for approval on specifications so all signs throughout the Town can be the same. Funding for the signs may come from the CPC for all Town properties.

FY 21 Budget As of this meeting, there has been no confirmation on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 beginning in July 2020. Commissioner Clark will contact the Finance Committee to determine who the liaison is for the Agricultural Commission for an update.

Annual Town Meeting Select Board Member Joe Deedy stated that the Annual Town Meeting will occur, but at this time there is no definite date, and may be delayed.

AC 04082020

Farm Brochure Commissioner Clark presented a revised copy of the brochure which includes farms within the Town. Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon will work on a two sided tri-fold layout in photo shop which may be the easiest way to print the brochures and to have them readily available in various store locations. The information contained in the brochures will be accurate information relative to each farm and if they are/are not in APR. Commissioner Barnett will work on putting the Chapter 61A/61B application on line for an easier way for farms to submit an application.

Land Use Parcel Maps Commissioner Clark is in the process of completing a mapping system for all open space land. The parcels will be reviewed for accuracy, and information will be compiled on what each parcel has for public access. Commissioner Clark will print and email the maps to Chairman Hansen.

APR Tracking Commissioner Clark stated that the Select Board approved the proposed APR Tracking System that will reduce the Town's match from 10% to 5%. Chairman Hansen will contact Ron Hall for his availability as an informational speaker. The Agricultural Commission can hold another virtual meeting prior to the next scheduled meeting provided an agenda is posted within the required 48 hour time frame.

Farm Day There is no new information, however it will remain on the agenda as an open item. Farm Day may be held in conjunction with the Pumpkin Festival on September 26th. Commissioner Clark- Bissaillon will get information for an online application.

Community Garden As of this meeting, there have been 3 applications for plots, two of which are no till and available now. The garden will have to be tilled, but there is a limited space to allow for a large tractor/tiller. The gate is in need a repair and can be removed and restructured to accommodate a larger tractor/tiller for this year and in the future. As of now, there have been no volunteers available for tilling. Commissioner Cecchini offered that he may have the equipment for tilling in the near future and will notify Chairman Hansen when available. Chairman Hansen will determine if the pump for the well is in working order.

As there was no further business to discuss, Chairman Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. Commissioner Clark-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
Tammy Clark-Bissaillon – yes
Ron Cecchini - yes

The next meeting of the Agricultural Commission is TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board
Town Clerk

Bret 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