

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
July 15, 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

7:02 pm: Chairman Hansen opened the meeting announced the meeting date, Commissioners Roll Call attendance, that the meeting was being recorded, and noted the regulations associated with a remote meeting.

MINUTES

Commissioner Clark made a motion to accept the minutes of June 10, 2020. Commissioner Clark-Bissaillon seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

MAIL

Flynn Farm A letter was issued to the Building Inspector concerning violations of vehicles on the property. Vehicles or machines used directly for agricultural production including tractors are permitted in accordance with MGL c. 90DS 1. The boat, trailer, SUV and car will not used for farming will be removed.

Signs Vice Chairman Maryssa Cook-Obregon is still working on getting a complete list of local farms that want to participate.

Right to Farm The Warrant Article for \$2,500.00 from CPC funds for Right to Farm Signage was approved at the Annual Town Meeting. Vice Chairman Maryssa Cook-Obregon has contacted sign companies and will get quotes. The members of the Agricultural Commission
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agreed to allow Vice Chairman Maryssa Cook-Obregon to choose which vendor for the signs. Once the quotes are received, a purchase order will be requested. The signs will be the standard material used for road signs with approval from DOT for the ones to be installed on a State Highway.

Farm Brochure Commissioner Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon has a few more potential additions to the brochure. Commissioner Bret Colson agreed to work the Commissioner Ciak Bissaillon on a draft design. Restaurants that use local farms for their produce could also be mentioned in the brochure.

Census of Farms There has been no further progress on the census.

Community Garden Chairman Hansen stated that this is the first year that most of the plots were rented. The gates and fences are still in need of repair. There has been occasions where the gate has been left open. Signs will be created to alert the gardeners to be sure to close the gates behind them.

Lake Management Committee Vice Chairman Maryssa Cook-Obregon will extend an invitation to Mr. Grannells of the LMC inviting him and the Commission members to the Agricultural Committee meeting on August 12. The invitation is for a discussion on how to better work together for a notification on the water treatment so that farmers using the lake water will have sufficient notification for irrigation.

Jack Feldman Mr. Feldman contacted Commissioner Clark concerning creating fields and a pond on his land. There are wetlands on the property, but there will be a way to work around them. Commissioner Clark will research if any grant funding is available.

38 Mort Vining Road There is a parcel on the lot with a residential dwelling that will be removed from Chapter 61A. Commissioner Clark has arranged a meeting with the current owners to discuss preservation of the parcel. An evaluation will be required to determine the estimated worth of the property. Values for APR land are determined by the soil.

Kellogg North Loomis Commissioner Clark related that Mr. Kellogg may be interested in preserving some of his land. Commissioner Ron Cecchini stated that he may be interested in purchasing the property. It is currently a bird sanctuary. Commissioner Clark will contact the Mass Auto Bond Society for further information. There may be limited options on what the land can be used for.

As there was no further business to discuss, Commissioner Ciak-Bissaillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Commissioner Colson seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hansen – yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon – yes

Dennis Clark – yes

Zach Barnett – yes

Dan Cook - yes

Tammy Cisk-Bissaillon - yes

Ron Cecchini – yes

Brett Colson - yes

The Commissioners agreed to conduct a monthly meeting during the summer. The next scheduled meeting of the Agricultural Commission is August 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board
Town Clerk

Burt Hansen, Chairman

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Vice Chairman

Dennis Clark, Commissioner

Dan Cook, Commissioner

Zach Barnett, Commissioner

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner

Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

Brett Colson, Commissioner

Lenita Bober, Commissioner

Diana Flynn, Alternate Commissioner

Date