

**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
REMOTE PARTICIPATION
August 11, 2021**

OPENING: 7:00 p.m. Chairman Hansen opened the hybrid meeting is being held via Zoom and in person at the Land Use Meeting Room in Town Hall by announcing a roll call attendance, that the meeting is being recorded, and noted the regulations associated with a remote meeting. However, there were only 3 members in attendance until 7:40. No motions or votes were taken until after the Agricultural Committee had a quorum.

ATTENDANCE

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

MAIL

The Agricultural Committee received a copy of the application for possible APR land on Kline Road.

DISCUSSION

It was noted that the Fiscal Year budget for the committee was \$951.00.

Chairman Hansen advised the members that the Town would be required to purchase the development rights for anyone interested in land preservation through Winding River/Franklin Lan Trust.

APR Applications Chairman Hansen stated that Jon Goddard, Interim Town Planner, will help with the 2 APR applications in process. One on Kline Road and the other on Davis Road. A portion of the applications include the Right to Farm Bylaw. Several Boards and Committees are required to submit information relative to land preservation. A potential landowner on Nicholson Hill Road inquired about the program, however the property may not have sufficient area to qualify for Chapter 61A or APR.

32 Hillside Road Research is in progress for the potential to put the land in a trust through Franklin Land Trust.

Right to Farm Chairman Hansen stated that potential new homeowners in Southwick need to be advised that Southwick is a Right to Farm community and has an existing Bylaw.

Farm Day The members in attendance discussed a Farm Day in the fall. However, due to the lateness of the year and delays due to Covid 19, it would not be practical to hold it this fall. Commissioner Cook noted that there were other events and will research a list of neighboring agricultural farms. There will need to be considerations if the event is held on a farm specifically towards liability for the public on private land and participants possibly going beyond the allowable boundaries set by the farmers. Commissioner Cook also noted that there may be a tax break for participation and will check on that.

Sage Fury noted that Granby CT had a similar program and suggested a possible bus tour included with a fund raiser. All in attendance agreed that this program could not happen in 2021.

Community Garden Chairman Hansen noted that he discussed the mowing with a potential vendor. A amount will be agreed upon. Mowing at the garden should continue until October/November. Commissioner Cook will again due the rototilling in the fall. The fencing was reinforced and there has been no problem with the well as this has been a very wet summer.

Frame Brochure Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon will continue to work on the brochure. She has taken more pictures of various farming activities throughout the Town.

Right to Farm Signs Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon stated that the signs will be going up in the next week. There are a total of 13 signs being installed at the boundaries of Southwick.

As Commissioner Colson joined the meeting, Chairman Hansen made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of May 12, June 9, June 23, July 14, 2021. The minutes of June 30 will be tabled until a future meeting. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Hansen yes

Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon yes

Commissioner Cook yes

Commissioner Colson yes

Commissioner Colson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Hansen yes

Vice Chairman Cook-Obregon yes

Commissioner Cook yes

Commissioner Colson yes

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

Date