

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

April 15, 2020

Attendance: Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Chris Hugo, Maleah Gustafson

Absent: Ryan McKay

Also In Attendance: Amy

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

MINUTES:

On a motion by Tom, seconded by Chris, the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were accepted unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE:

61 and 61A parcel scoring is 2/3 complete. Tom is in progress of completion. Jim will share subcommittee results when completed and then to Select Board.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:

Discussion about using a virtual format and webinars. Discussion about potential topics including home gardening. Committee will look to potential speakers.

FARMERS MARKET:

Jim will follow up with Leslie.

CENTRAL MASS GROWN:

Working on grants to support farms. Webinar hosted with other farms as well as best practices guide for local farm delivery and pickup given COVID-19 safety concerns. Maleah will put this up on our website.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

Jim was going to contact candidate, Kelly DeMar, but with COVID-19 issues, Jim suspended to have the candidate attend the meeting. Jim will talk to Peter about other candidates, including Amy.

AG COMM WEBPAGE / BLOG STATUS:

This topics came about as Jim interest in renewing the newsletter. Committee thought that the webpage was updated and looks good. Traffic count to site was higher than expected. We can get visitation counts to the site at any time. Discussion about using our Facebook Page under Town account for posting of relevant updates, events, news, photos, as a way of communicating about agriculture and reaching audiences. Jim asked committee to look at the Friends of Rutland Agriculture Facebook page for examples of informational posts.

AG COMM VIDEO UPDATE:

Chris has not continued work on the video to this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

The members discussed the Master Plan and impacts on the Ag Comm. Each member identified tasks within the plan that would be their potential priorities to either work on individually or as a group. Discussion that some of the tasks were already underway with the Committee such as Task 7.1.1.3. Chris and Maleah asked questions about tasks

related to Zoning Bylaws and our charter as a committee. Maleah and Jim highlighted tasks 8.6. Jim mentioned that the Committee decided years ago to refer community gardens to the community garden committee. Maleah mentioned platforms for online transactions and delivery platforms that already exist. Jim can ask Pam Harding for background on recommendations and how these came about within the Master Plan.

On a motion by Tom, seconded by Chris, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom O'Shea
Secretary