

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
June 16, 2020

Attendance: Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Chris Hugo, Maleah Gustafson
Absent: Ryan McKay
Also In Attendance:

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

MINUTES:

Tom will share minutes of April 15, 2020 meeting at the July 2020 meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE:

61 and 61A parcel scoring is complete. Jim presented a graph with groupings based on tiered levels of rankings. Jim explained that the standard deviation between Jim, Tom, and Chris' scores were about 10 or 12 points. The South Road group of parcels appeared to be in the top tier parcel scores. Jim will map with 61A and will do so for other to give to the Town planner for archiving and future presentation to Select Board with summary and recommendations.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:

Discussion about a potential late August webinar on composting. MDAR has been using webinars as well. Jim will reach out to WRSD and asked that we check out our list of topics again. Tom will ask IT experts about Zoom webinar format.

FARMERS MARKET:

Town planner was not aware of the Farmer's market first opening. Vendors need to update their BOH permit.

CENTRAL MASS GROWN:

No updates with focus on COVID-19 safety practices and disruption grants. Adding HIP vendors and increasing funding so more can access.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

Jim will reach out to candidate for committee. Committee should think about other potential candidates.

AG COMM WEBPAGE / BLOG STATUS:

Holden Ag Comm already has a Facebook Page. Maleah updates regularly. Discussion about what we should post additionally for content. Maleah reviewed Facebook page demographics. Maleah keeps a running list of content and photos. Maleah posted recently about Farmer's Market.

AG COMM VIDEO UPDATE:

Chris has not been able to meet with others to be interviewed as part of video. Would be good to get a synopsis of perspectives from farmers, woodland landowners, foresters, etc. in Holden to be part of video. Tom can reach out to forester who might know landowners. Chris asked what questions would we want to ask the farmers and which kind of farming to include (e.g. haying, corn, flowers, pigs, etc.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Report out on individual and group priorities of Master Plan. Question raised about whether there would be an implementation committee established? Report on progress of Master Plan each month.

On a motion by Tom, seconded by Chris, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom O'Shea
Secretary