

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
November 17, 2020

Attendance:

Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Ryan McKay (not a quorum)
Amy Parker (guest). The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

MINUTES:

Review and vote on minutes at next meeting when there is a quorum.

SUBCOMMITTEE:

Jim is preparing the Chapter 61 parcel package and supporting documents including questionnaire and spreadsheet ranking formula. Jim plans to present to Town Manager and Assessor and then at December Select Board Meeting. Amy Parker asked if the results would be made public. Jim said that the Select Board presentation will be public. Jim will send pdf document to the AgComm members.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:

Jim asked that the Committee consider ideas.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

Jim mentioned that Amy Santos expressed interest. Jim called her and gave her an overview and invited Ms. Santos to attend.

AG COMM WEBPAGE / BLOG STATUS:

Maleah was not in attendance to provide update.

AG COMM VIDEO UPDATE:

Chris was not in attendance to provide update.

NEW BUSINESS:

The AgComm discussed implementation of the Master Plan. Tom suggested that we will need the Conservation Commission and a licensed forester to sign off on an updated Forest Stewardship Plan and offered to help develop updates to the plan. Jim mentioned that he was sworn in to serve on the Open Space and Planning Committee, but has not heard when they will meet though he expects it will be imminent. Jim will get a vote to speak for the Committee. Jim mentioned that the former OS plan was about 200 pages and prepared by CMRPC. Jim added that because the Town now has an Open Space Fund, there is more viability to achieve some of the goals of a new plan.

FARMERS MARKET:

Jim needs to follow-up with the manager for an update. Vendors list is now on the Farmers Market Facebook page.

CENTRAL MASS GROWN:

No update from Jim, Maleah not in attendance. Amy Parker noted that Lilac Hedge Farm was ranked by Discover Central Massachusetts as one of 11 places recommended for photographers Best 10 Farmers Markets in Worcester, MA. Jim said he will pass this news on to Maleah to post on our Facebook page.

Jim asked if we should continue with virtual meetings and confirmed that we can proceed with the December 15th, 2020 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom O'Shea, Secretary