

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

May 21, 2019

Attendance: Steve D'Aquila, Jim Dunn, Chris Hugo (departed @ 8:00 PM),
Maleah Gustafson
Absent: Eileen Charbonneau, Ryan McKay, Tom O'Shea
Others Present: Amy Parker, Kirk Pollitt

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE:

The subcommittee reported that they are nearing the end of scoring the 61A parcels. Tom has not scored for a while. Chris and Jim have a few parcels to go. One 61A parcel was found to not be in the Town GIS database. This is being corrected. Jim presented an analysis of standard deviation of scores between the scorers. This may guide a review of some parcels where the scores are highly disparate. No progress has been made on the Town updating the GIS to show properties owned by GWLT, White Oak, etc.

MINUTES:

Jim made a motion to accept the April 16, 2019 Minutes of the Agricultural Commission Meeting. Chris seconded the motion. A vote was taken (Maleah abstained). The motion passed.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:

There were about 12 outside attendees at the "Love Your Soil" presentation by Kate Gervais. The video of the presentation is already online. A link to it can be found on the Ag Comm Facebook page.

The group still thinks the idea of a late summer presentation centered on food preservation would be appropriate and useful, perhaps coordinated with the Library and/or Cooking Club. A presenter has yet to be identified. Maleah will reach out to her contacts.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

The citizen petition for permanent abatement of animal and farm equipment excise taxes was passed over at Town Meeting, due to a last minute technical legality issue. The group will attempt to keep this issue open.

FARMER'S MARKET:

Jim reported that the Farmers Market Manager reached out for some advertising assistance and help in reinvigorating their social media presence. The vendor who used to do Facebook has left the market. A new person has volunteered, but needs help in getting up and running. Maleah volunteered to assist the transition. Jim asked the Town to add a link to the Farmer's Market Facebook page on the Ag Comm web site and put a reminder about the Market on the electronic sign whenever there is space.

CENTRAL MASS GROWN:

Several summer events are scheduled—Facebook page for updates
Maleah has Maps and Consumer Guides available
The annual NOFA meeting will be in July

MISCELLANEOUS:

Amy Parker reported that preparations for the Summit Wynds Lavender Fest have gone very well. The event is sold out for Saturday and Sunday! Some availability remained for Friday night. There will be food, live music, demonstrations, tours, a scavenger hunt, etc. Guests will be bussed in from the High School parking lot to minimize traffic impacts.

On a motion made by Jim, seconded by Maleah, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dunn
Acting Secretary