

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

October 21, 2020

Attendance:

Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Chris Hugo, Ryan McKay, Maleah Gustafson, Nancy Rocheleau. Amy Parker (guest). The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES:

Committee asked the Secretary to make an amendment to the September minutes during the meeting. After two misspellings were corrected, the September minutes were accepted unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE:

No new updates. Jim can take Chapter 61 presentation to Town Manager in November.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:

No updates. Committee can consider virtual workshop ideas for late fall – winter.

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

One vacancy remains and will continue to search and recruit for one more committee member. Jim reminded current committee members of their appointment expiration dates. Chris Hugo – July 2023, Tom O'Shea – July 2021, Ryan McKay – April 2021, Maleah Gustafson – November 2022, Jim Dunn – November 2023, and Nancy Rocheleau – November 2023. In advance of appointment expirations, Jim can send a note to Select Board regarding a vote on re-appointment.

AG COMM WEBPAGE / BLOG STATUS:

Maleah reported that was not much change in traffic on website or Facebook page. Overall reach was down and there were two posts made since September.

AG COMM VIDEO UPDATE:

There was discussion on what needs to happen for Chris to complete video. There is B-roll video posted on YouTube page which can be linked to Facebook page. Chris will send Maleah the links with new names or descriptors of videos. Chris will coordinate schedules with Ryan and Jim for videos with them. Also, High Street Farm and Lilac Hedge Farm.

NEW BUSINESS:

No updates.

The AgComm discussed implementation of the Master Plan. Tom will start with looking at how to update 2006 Forest Stewardship Plan. Jim announced that he volunteered to serve on the Open Space and Planning Committee. Jim will get a vote to speak for the Committee. Nancy recalled from her experience on this committee that controversial issues can arise.

Social media efforts fits with ongoing activities and Central Mass Grown efforts including 8.6.2.4 where tools are out there to help keep ag land in ag use and a structured platform to help with underutilized farm land, similar to Land For Good program. Maleah would take on this task.

FARMERS MARKET:

The main way that the market communicates is through emails from manager. Jim mentioned that the market is about to end for the season, usually end of October. Nancy asked about a listing of websites of vendors and whether we have such a listing of vendors for the market. The market has its own Facebook Page.

CENTRAL MASS GROWN:

Virtual meeting is planned for November. Jim reported that the MA Farm Bureau has a meeting planned virtually for December 4th for delegates only. Ryan and Jim are both Directors for Worcester County on the MA Farm Bureau. Tom asked that updates for Central Mass Grown, Farmers Market, and other agenda items be sent either as pre-reads for the meeting or as follow-up after the meeting to facilitate discussion and recording of minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom O'Shea
Secretary