

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 18, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

No minutes were available for approval.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Chapter 61 Subcommittee:**

Jim reported that he has tentatively scheduled to give the Property Prioritization presentation to the Holden Conservation Commission at their June 2 meeting. He has not had further contact with the Mass Association of Ag Commissions.

**Educational; Series Presentation:**

General consensus that we should do a late summer presentation of "Winterizing Gardens". Christie Higgenbottom was mentioned as a possible speaker. Coordination with Lisa Trotto at Worcester County Conservation District was suggested.

**New Member:**

No new applicants have been identified.

**Ag Comm Outreach:**

Updated numbers were not available.

**Master Plan Implementation:**

Jim reported that he has two recent successes getting new farmers to take over Chapter 61A properties to keep them in operation.

**MGL Change to BOH regulations:**

Jim reported that he had talked to Pam Harding about the new law. She had not heard of it and appreciated the update.

**Agricultural Burning Permits:**

Jim reported that he had talked to Town Manger and got good support. Fire Chief has revised the permit process. Jim will summarize a notice of the new process to be published on our WWW page and social media.

**Open Space Preservation Fund:**

Jim reported that the normal annual \$50K contribution to the fund survived the spring budget process.

**Chapter 61 Conversion – Dresser/McCandless:**

Jim reported on notification to non-profits and Town Boards and Commission. Also that two notified abutters had their questions answered. The group discussed the parcel in

question, concentrating on the small size and high cost. On a motion by Chris, seconded by Ryan, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Selectmen not exercise their first right of refusal on this property.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee-Update:**

Jim reported that the committee plans to hold their public forum on June 12 at Trout Brook pavilion. Notices will be posted on our WWW page and Facebook.

### **Forest Stewardship Plan Update:**

Tom was not available to provide an update.

### **Farmer's Market**

The Famer's Market opened for the first time in 2021 today. The Market Manager had provided an updated list of vendors which got posted to our Facebook page and we now have a current social media contact person for the Market.

### **Central Mass Grown:**

Maleah was not available to provide an update.

The committee discussed options for taking minutes. Is a video or audio recording legally sufficient? When we go back to face-to-face how will things work?

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Ryan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dunn  
Acting Secretary