

# AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

## MINUTES

October 15, 2019

Attendance: Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Ryan McKay, Eileen Charbonneau, Maleah Gustafson (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)

Absent: Chris Hugo

In Attendance: Amy Parker & Guest

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Two Chapter 61B parcels were scored. Four Chapter 61A parcels were re-scored. Two that had errors were also re-scored. Once Chris' scores have been submitted the 61A parcels will be complete and the committee can focus on 61B parcels.

### **MINUTES:**

On a motion by Tom and seconded by Jim, the Minutes from the September 2019 meeting passed unanimously.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:**

The next installment of the educational series will be a workshop on tool sharpening presented by Old Sturbridge Village Curator, Tom Kelleher. Per the presenter's request, the workshop will be kept to a maximum of 10-12 participants. Jim's email will be used for taking registrations. A waiting list will be kept if necessary. Promotion will be handled as usual. The workshop is scheduled for November 16, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Jim will request the Holden Senior Center as the location.

It was decided that it may be useful to ask future workshop participants to complete a short survey regarding what programs they would like to see offered by the Agricultural Commission to help with ideas for future programs and where they heard about the program they are attending so that we can determine which promotional avenues work best.

For a winter workshop to be held sometime between January and March, it was decided that Jim will contact the Rutland Agricultural Commission to see if they would like to co-sponsor the winter workshop. AgComm members will work on coming up with ideas for the next workshop. Jim will also ask the Rutland AgComm if they have any ideas.

Maleah and Eileen will work on creating an archive of all the workshop topics that have been offered so far and when they were held. The commission may consider repeating some of the more popular ones that have not been done in a while.

### **FARMERS MARKET:**

The last day of this year's Farmer's Market will be Tuesday, October 29, 2019. The banner is up again along with another banner. For next year we will request that the banner be up more frequently and, whenever possible, at times when it can be the only banner.

The Farmer's Market Facebook page appears to be up and running as people have posted to it.

**CENTRAL MASS GROWN:**

Maleah reported that Central Mass Grown is currently waiting for grants before proceeding with planning meetings. Grants are expected soon, so more information should be forthcoming at the November meeting.

It was noted that there may be a Central Mass Grown Members Only website in the works.

**NEW RECRUIT FOR OPEN POSITION:**

Though interested, Kent Rissmiller is overwhelmed with other projects at the moment so will not be able to join at this time. Agricultural Commission members will spend one more month attempting to recruit a new member. If unsuccessful, Jim will ask Abby to advertise the position and Maleah will post it on Facebook.'

**BLOG STATUS:**

Jim spoke with Peter Lukes who informed him that the Town Manager no longer has a blog because there is no capability for it to be interactive. Jim will find out if it must be on a Town platform or if we can use a host such as Square Space or Wix and link it to the Town Page. If we do go ahead with the blog, it will need a moderator. Details on this to be worked out if/when we decide to go forward with the blog.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

AgComm Video: Chris flew a drone around Jim's field and took videos of hay mowing. A friend of Ryan's did the same for round baling. Discussion ensued regarding making a series of short educational and promotional YouTube videos of agricultural in Holden. Outreach to people doing agricultural activities in Holden as well as affiliated groups such as the Red Barn, the Holden Garden Club, and the Community Garden will be contacted to assess interest in participating.

Jim requested that all Commission members read the Mission Statement of the Holden Agricultural Commission and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss possible changes or additions and to assess whether there is anything in the Mission Statement that we are not addressing and, if so, what we should do about it.

On a motion made by Ryan, seconded by Eileen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Charbonneau  
Secretary