

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 19, 2019

Attendance: Jim Dunn, Tom O'Shea, Chris Hugo, Maleah Gustafson

Absent: Ryan McKay

In Attendance: Amy Parker & Guest, Eileen Charbonneau

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The Chairman deviated from the published agenda to discuss member reappointments and to allow Eileen to announce that she has decided not to be reappointed for another term and for her to let the other members know her reasons. The Committee thanked Eileen for all her hard work over the past years. Her presence and support will be missed.

**MINUTES:**

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

Jim volunteered to create minutes for this meeting, but another volunteer will need to step up in the future.

**SUBCOMMITTEE:**

61A parcel scoring is complete. A summary presentation has been started. Six 61B parcels have been documented. Scoring on 61B parcels is progressing, but slowly.

**EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTATION:**

The planned Fall Tool Sharpening workshop did not go off. Only three people signed up and that did not seem enough to bother having the speaker come up from Sturbridge.

The Committee discussed recent planned workshop disappointments and what to do in the future. Jim will contact the Rutland Ag Comm for possible joint sponsorship and ideas. Members were asked to come up with new suggestions as well.

**FARMERS MARKET:**

The Farmer's Market manager reached out about getting some holes filled in the lawn areas they use. It was pointed out that the depression might be a falling hazard for the elderly.

**CENTRAL MASS GROWN:**

Maleah reported that Central Mass Grown is expecting MDAR grants for Buy-Local promotions to be announced shortly. CMG is sponsoring an Ag promotional movie to be shown on Dec 2. The CMG quarterly meeting has been re-scheduled; date TBA.

**NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT:**

No new candidates were presented. Jim will ask the Town to overtly advertise the openings (now 2) and a notice will be added to the Ag Comm Facebook page.

**AG COMM BLOG STATUS:**

The Committee discussed implementation options. Maleah and Tom will search for volunteers to handle the hosting/technical aspects.

**AG COMM VIDEO UPDATE:**

Jim discussed the concept with Chris between meetings and Chris liked the idea and will go forward with creating a Holden-focused series of short videos depicting Holden agriculture. Jim will contact Ryan for the video footage taken at his farm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The members discussed potential revisions/updates to the Ag Comm's Mission Statement. There was a general consensus that the existing one is still valid, but the some re-wording and re-prioritizing might help focus our efforts better. Tom will re-write and present at the next meeting. Jim will collate an addendum to the Mission Statement which details what we have accomplished to implement the Vision and Mission.

On a motion made by Maleah, seconded by Tom, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dunn  
Acting Secretary